

**Workbook**



# **Pets & Disasters: Identifying Community Needs & Resources**



**SART Training Media**



## **Pets & Disasters: Identifying Community Needs & Resources Workbook**

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Published August 2006

SART Training Media are available for download from the Florida SART Web site  
<[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>.

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## About Florida SART

SART is a multiagency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agriculture sectors in the state of Florida.

SART operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

SART utilizes the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals with its multiagency coordination group structure.

SART supports the county, regional, and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.

### SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animals and agriculture.

### SART Goals

- Promote the active engagement of each county coordinator who is responsible for animal and agricultural issues
  - Provide assistance in the development and writing of county ESF-17 plans
  - Promote the establishment of a county SART to work as a multiagency coordination group to support emergency management and incident management teams
  - Provide training for all SART and animal and agriculture personnel
  - Identify county resources available for an emergency or disaster
  - Work to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) document
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**Subject:** Identify community needs and resources for dealing with pets in disasters and help participants plan a workshop on an action plan for pets in disasters.

**Mission:** Empower participants with the background knowledge and tools to assess their community's characteristics, hazards and pet population and to identify contacts for a workshop that will help create an action plan for pets in disasters.

## **Specific Learning Objectives**

At the end of this meeting, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the reasons to prepare a plan for pets in disasters.
  2. List and discuss characteristics of the community that affect the plan for pets in disasters.
  3. Name the key people who need to be involved in a workshop helps create an action plan for pets in disasters or an update to an existing plan.
  4. Assign responsibilities for holding the workshop on the action plan.
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## Worksheet 1

### Identifying Community Needs & Resources

#### **Key Contacts**

Planning for pets in disasters is more effective when community involvement and support are strong. Below is a list of categories of groups to involve in a community plan for pets in disasters. Use this worksheet to develop a list of key contacts.

|  | Organizations | Key contacts |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Emergency management and other organizations involved in disasters |               |              |
| Shelters and other animal agencies                                 |               |              |
| Animal community   |               |              |
| Key communicators  |               |              |
| Other community groups   |               |              |

## Background for Worksheet 1 Identifying Community Needs & Resources

### ***Possible Community Partners***

Below are examples of groups to involve as partners in developing or enhancing a community plan for animals in disasters.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Emergency management and other organizations involved in disasters | Emergency management<br>Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT's)<br>Fire/rescue<br>Law enforcement<br>Health department<br>Other local government agencies<br>Red Cross<br>Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)  |
| Shelters and other animal agencies                                 | Animal Services/Control<br>Humane Society<br>Wildlife agencies  |
| Animal community   | Disaster Animal Response Team (DART)<br>Breeding clubs<br>Other interest groups for various animals<br>Wildlife rehabilitators<br>Cooperative Extension<br>Veterinarians<br>Pet stores<br>Dog/cat breeders<br>Boarding stables<br>Boarding kennels<br>Pet groomers<br>Veterinary schools<br>Veterinary medical association<br>Veterinary health technician associations<br>4-H and other youth groups |
| Key communicators  | Media<br>Schools<br>Access television stations<br>List-serves<br>Web services<br>Ham radio operators<br>Nonprofit organizations   |
| Other community groups   | Major businesses<br>Nonprofit organizations<br>Civic groups   |

## Worksheet 2

### Identifying Community Needs & Resources

#### ***Community Characteristics***

Use this worksheet to assess the characteristics of your community. Each community has its own circumstances and history. Use this unit to get a snapshot of your community.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Urban, rural, mix?   |  |
| What are your community's demographics, including ages, economic profile and cultures?   |  |
| Natural features   |  |
| Potential for manmade disasters — highways, railroads, nuclear plants, industry, factory farming   |  |
| Are you a host community? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Along major evacuation routes</li> <li>• On high ground</li> <li>• Major metropolitan area</li> </ul> |  |
| Other characteristics  |  |
| History of disasters   |  |

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Identifying Community Needs & Resources**

#### ***Examples of Problems in Disasters***

- After the Three Mile Island, Pa., nuclear accident in 1979, many misinformed owners left animals to stray, resulting in traffic crashes and an overloading of humane shelters and veterinary practices.
- During the evacuation from a large white phosphorus and liquid sulfur spill in Dayton, Ohio, in 1984, pet owners attempting to rescue their animals created traffic jams by driving in the opposite direction to the evacuating traffic.
- Following the Oakland, Calif., firestorm in 1991, hundreds of cats and dogs were never reunited with their owners because their owners could not be found.
- After Hurricane Andrew struck South Florida in 1992, many victims were distressed when they discovered that they could not stay at public shelters if they had pets with them.
- After a tornado in West Lafayette, Ind., in 1994, several animal owners in public shelters showed signs of stress as a result of not knowing the whereabouts of their pets.
- During floods in Georgia in 1994, some pet owners refused to evacuate in a timely and safe manner because they could not take their pets with them. Others were prevented from attempting to rescue their pets from flooded homes using boats.
- After a propane gas spill caused by a train derailment in 1996, all citizens of Weyauwega, Wis., were evacuated and were not allowed back for 18 days. Many pets and livestock were left behind. Emergency management initiated a rescue effort.

### Worksheet 3

## Identifying Community Needs & Resources

### ***Community Hazards***

Use this worksheet to assess the hazards your community may face. Each community has its own vulnerability to known hazards.

|                                | Likelihood | Considerations |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Hurricanes                     |            |                |
| Tornadoes                      |            |                |
| Floods                         |            |                |
| Highway or transport incident  |            |                |
| Wildfires                      |            |                |
| Urban fires                    |            |                |
| Hazardous material spills      |            |                |
| Attack (nuclear or terrorist)  |            |                |
| Power shortage/failure         |            |                |
| Chemical or biological warfare |            |                |

**Worksheet 4**  
**Identifying Community Needs & Resources**

| <b><i>Animal Ownership – National Averages</i></b> |                                      |                              |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | Percentage of Housholds Owning a Pet | Number of Pets Per Household |
| Dogs   | 40                                   | 1.7                          |
| Cats   | 30                                   | 2.1                          |
| Birds  | 5.7                                  | 2.16                         |
| Horses   | 2.0                                  | 2.54                         |

| <b><i>Estimated Pets for Community of 100,000</i></b> |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| Dogs  | $100,000 \times 40\% = 40,000 \times 1.7$  | 68,000         |
| Cats  | $100,000 \times 30\% = 30,000 \times 1.7$  | 63,000         |
| Birds   | $100,000 \times 5.7\% = 5,700 \times 2.16$ | 12,312         |
| Horses  | $100,000 \times 2\% = 2,000 \times 1.7$    | 5,080          |
| <b>Total Estimated Companion Animal Population</b>    |  | <b>133,137</b> |

| <b><i>Estimate Pet Ownership in Your Community</i></b>           |           |
|--|-----------|
| A. Community Population in 100,000's                             |           |
| B. Pets per 100,000=133,000                                      | X 133,000 |
| Multiply A and B to estimate the number of pets in the community |           |

## **Worksheet 5**

### **Identifying Community Needs & Resources**

#### **Review of Meeting**

What are the main reasons we need a plan for animals in disasters?

What characteristics of our community will affect our plan?

How will we contact people to come to a workshop on the plan?

Who will handle the other responsibilities in setting up the workshop?

## **PowerPoint Slides – Handout Pages**

The *Identifying Community Needs & Resources* PowerPoint slides are reproduced on the following pages at reduced size with space for participant notes.

(Also included in the participant workbook for *Identifying Community Needs & Resources*, available on the SART Web site:

<[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>

**Slides 1-3**



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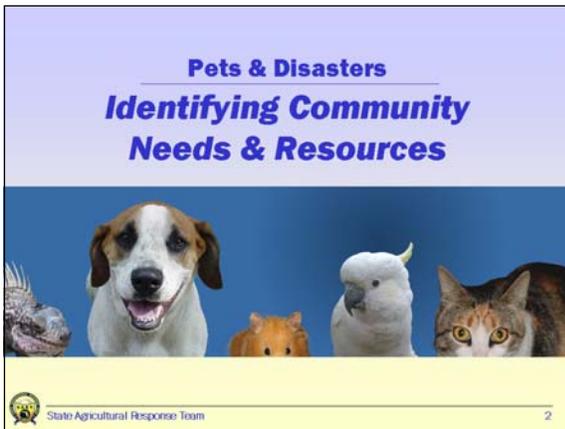
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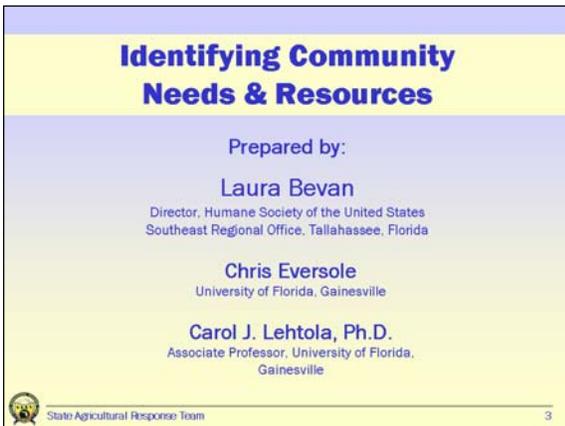
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**Slides 4-6**

**Meeting Objectives**

- Describe the reasons to prepare a plan for animals in disasters
- List & discuss characteristics of the community that affect planning for animals in disasters
- Name key people to invite to a planning workshop
- Assign responsibilities for the workshop

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**Animal Issues are People Issues**

- People are concerned about their animals
- May base decisions on their concerns
  - Refuse to evacuate
  - Attempt to rescue pets during unsafe conditions



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***Pet owners have been injured or killed attempting to rescue animals***

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**Slides 7-9**

**Who's Involved in Planning?**

- Emergency management & other organizations involved in disasters
- Shelters and other animal agencies
- Animal community
- Key communicators
- Other community groups

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**Planning Activities**

- Working with shelters & other animal agencies on their animal disaster plans
- Creating partnerships with groups involved with animals
- Encouraging agencies & organizations to include animals in response plans
- Providing public education on planning for pets

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**Who's here?**  
**Worksheet 1—Key Contacts List**

**Worksheet 1**  
**Identifying Community Needs & Resources**

Key Contacts

Planning efforts for animal disasters are more effective when people in your community understand and agree to cooperate. Make a list of individuals or groups in your community who are involved in disaster response.

| Organization or individual involved in disaster                   | Name | Phone | Address |
|---|------|-------|---------|
| Emergency management and other organizations involved in disaster |      |       |         |
| Shelters and other animal agencies                                |      |       |         |
| Animal community  |      |       |         |
| Key communicators   |      |       |         |
| Other community groups  |      |       |         |

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**Slides 10-12**

**Community Characteristics**

- Urban, rural, mix?
- Demographics
  - Ages
  - Economic profile
  - Cultures

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**Community Characteristics**

- Natural features
- Potential for manmade disasters
  - Highways
  - Railroads
  - Nuclear plants
  - Industry
  - Factory farming

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**Community Characteristics**

Are we a host community?

- Along major evacuation routes
- On high ground
- Major metropolitan area

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Slides 13-15

**Community Characteristics**

- Other characteristics
- History of disasters

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**Worksheet 2  
Community Characteristics**

**Worksheet 2  
Identifying Community Needs & Resources**

**Community Characteristics**

Identify and list the major characteristics of your community. Be sure to include the following information in your list:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| • What are the major geographical features of your community? (e.g., mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, etc.)      |  |
| • What are the major industries of your community? (e.g., agriculture, manufacturing, etc.)                      |  |
| • What are the major transportation routes of your community? (e.g., highways, bridges, etc.)                    |  |
| • What are the major cultural or historical landmarks of your community? (e.g., museums, historical sites, etc.) |  |
| • What are the major social or economic issues of your community? (e.g., poverty, unemployment, etc.)            |  |
| • What are the major environmental issues of your community? (e.g., air quality, water quality, etc.)            |  |
| • What are the major health or safety issues of your community? (e.g., crime, terrorism, etc.)                   |  |
| • What are the major political or governmental issues of your community? (e.g., local government, etc.)          |  |
| • What are the major religious or spiritual issues of your community? (e.g., churches, mosques, etc.)            |  |
| • What are the major recreational or leisure issues of your community? (e.g., parks, sports, etc.)               |  |
| • What are the major educational issues of your community? (e.g., schools, universities, etc.)                   |  |
| • What are the major housing or shelter issues of your community? (e.g., homelessness, etc.)                     |  |
| • What are the major food or nutrition issues of your community? (e.g., food banks, etc.)                        |  |
| • What are the major energy or utility issues of your community? (e.g., power outages, etc.)                     |  |
| • What are the major communication or information issues of your community? (e.g., internet access, etc.)        |  |
| • What are the major transportation or mobility issues of your community? (e.g., public transit, etc.)           |  |
| • What are the major social or community issues of your community? (e.g., community centers, etc.)               |  |
| • What are the major environmental or natural resource issues of your community? (e.g., forests, etc.)           |  |
| • What are the major climate or weather issues of your community? (e.g., hurricanes, etc.)                       |  |
| • What are the major disaster or emergency issues of your community? (e.g., disaster preparedness, etc.)         |  |

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**Hazards**

- No community is hazard-free
- Anyone living near a highway shouldn't be complacent
- Consider major hazards in this community

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**Slides 16-18**

**Examples of Problems**

- Three Mile Island
- Dayton, Ohio, chemical spill
- Snohomish Valley, Wash., floods
- Oakland, Calif., firestorm
- Hurricane Andrew

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**Examples of Problems**

- West Lafayette, Ind., tornado
- Georgia floods
- Weyauwega, Wis., derailment

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**Worksheet 3**  
**Assessing Hazards**

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Hurricane                     | • Hazardous material spills      |
| • Tornado                       | • Attack (nuclear or terrorist)  |
| • Flooding                      | • Power shortage/failure         |
| • Highway or transport incident | • Chemical or biological warfare |
| • Wildfires                     |                                  |
| • Urban fire                    |                                  |

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**Slides 19-21**

**Our Community's Animals**

- Estimate the number of pets
- Many animals may be unlicensed
- Make estimate based on national averages



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**Animal Ownership**

| Animal | Percentage of Households Owning a Pet | Number of Pets Per Household |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dogs   | 40                                    | 1.7                          |
| Cats   | 30                                    | 2.1                          |
| Birds  | 5.7                                   | 2.16                         |
| Horses | 2.0                                   | 2.54                         |

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**Worksheet 4**  
**Estimated Pet Population**

- Our population in 100,000s=X
- Multiply X by 133,000 to estimate number of pets

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**Slides 22-24**

**Non-Traditional Pets**



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**Who Has Exotic/Captive Wildlife?**

*Wildlife has seat of honor at cove*



- Zoos
- Petting parks
- Private collections
- Individuals

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**Native Wildlife**

- Wild animals can carry diseases transmissible to other animals & people
- Pets & other owned animals will normally take precedence
- Displaced, uninjured wildlife is often better off on its own

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**Slides 25-27**

**Wildlife Needs**

- Confinement to a rehab facility is stressful
- Wildlife may adapt & lose ability to survive in the wild
- Laws govern wildlife captivity
- Wildlife rehab facilities will probably be overwhelmed

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**Cooperation: Key to Success**

- Effective plan depends on people & organizations
- Need good working relations

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**Who to Invite to Planning Workshop?**

- Be inclusive, not exclusive
- People get involved from self-interest
- Recruit from your own groups & keep members of your groups informed

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**Slides 28-30**

**Who to Involve?**

- Emergency management & other organizations involved in disasters
- Shelters & other animal agencies
- Veterinarians
- Animal community
- Key communicators
- Other community groups

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**Return to Worksheet 1 & Background for Worksheet 1**

Worksheet 1  
Identifying Community Needs & Resources

Key Contacts

Please provide the contact information for each of the key contacts in your community involved with equine or avian. There is a list of categories of groups to consider in community plans for disaster response.

| Organization                       | Telephone | E-mail |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Emergency management organization  |           |        |
| Shelters and other animal agencies |           |        |
| Animal community                   |           |        |
| Key communicators                  |           |        |
| Other community groups             |           |        |

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**Worksheet 5  
Next Steps & Wrap Up**

Worksheet 5  
Identifying Community Needs & Resources

Review of Meeting

What are the main actions we need to plan for animals in disaster?

What does each list of community members do?

How will we contact people to come to a meeting on the plan?

Who will handle the other responsibilities in setting up the meeting?

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**Slides 31-32**

**Resources**

- SART Web site  
– [www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

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*On behalf of Florida's pets...*



**Thank You!**

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## Resources

This publication and other materials for SART training programs are available on the World Wide Web at <[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>, the Web site of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team program. The material includes:

*Make It Happen! Toolkit for Planning a Community-Based SART Training Event*

Training Module Topics Available:

- *Introducing SART*
- *Introducing Florida Aquaculture*
- *Pets in Disasters: Personal Planning*
- *Aquatic Animal Diseases*
- *Using Climate Forecasts in Agriculture*

Note: New materials are under development. As they become available, they will be posted on the Web site <[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>.

**The following is a source of additional information about the subjects and agencies mentioned in this module.**

Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency  
Management Emergency Response Team  
<[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)>

**Resources directly related to animals and disasters include:**

American Red Cross  
<[www.redcross.org/services/](http://www.redcross.org/services/)>  
Topics include *Pets and Disaster – Be Prepared*, *First Aid for Pets* and *Barnyard Animal Rescue Plan*

*Animal Management in Disasters*, Sebastian E. Heath, Mosby, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 64164. Available through many Internet booksellers.

Missing Pet Network  
<<http://www.missingpet.net>>  
*Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series: Helping Four-Legged Friends Survive the Storm* (18 minutes).

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The video is available to view in its entirety at the National Ag Safety Database Web site, <[www.cdc.gov/nasd/](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/)>.

Humane Society of the United States Disaster Center

<[www.hsus.org/ace/18730](http://www.hsus.org/ace/18730)>

Links include *Disaster Preparedness Brochures*, *Disaster Preparedness for Pets*, *Disaster Preparedness for Horses and HSUS Disaster Planning Manual for Animals*.

Laura Bevan, director, The Humane Society of the United States

Southeast Regional Office, 1624 Metropolitan Circle, Suite B, Tallahassee, FL 32308, (850) 386-3435, lbevan@hsus.org

The National Ag Safety Database has articles on handling horses and livestock safely.

Go to “animals” under “Locate by Topics” at

<[www.cdc.gov/nasd/](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/)>.

*Hawkins Guide on Equine Emergencies* and *Horse Trailering on the Road*

Blue Green Publishing Co., PO Box 1255, Southern Pines, NC 28388

*Equine Trailer Rescue* video, Horse Park of New Jersey,

PO Box 548, Allentown, N.J. 08501

**The following are sources of information on emergency management in general.**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

<[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)>

*IFAS Disaster Handbook*, prepared by the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

<[disaster.ifas.ufl.edu](http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu)>

Other parts of *Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series* are:

- *Surviving the Storm—Coordination, Communication and Cooperation* (30 minutes)
- *A Community Response to Managing Post-Disaster Stress* (45 minutes)

The entire three-part video series is available at the *IFAS Disaster Handbook* Web site, <<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>>. Go to the *Other Disaster Products* link.

The series also is available at IFAS Publications, PO Box 110011, Gainesville, FL 32611, (800) 226-1764.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

<[www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/](http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/)>

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Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and Response Page

<[www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html)>

**Other resources related to agricultural safety are listed below.**

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD)

<[www.cdc.gov/nasd](http://www.cdc.gov/nasd)>

Florida AgSafe network

<[www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/](http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/)>

**Online training courses from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) are available at no cost at <http://training.fema.gov>. CEU certificates are available.**

Especially useful may be:

- *Animals in Disaster: Module A, Awareness And Preparedness, IS 10.*  
Access this course at:  
<[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is10.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is10.asp)>.
- *Animals in Disaster: Module B, Community Planning, IS 11.*  
Access this course at <[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is11.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is11.asp)>.

Other related EMI courses are:

- *Introduction to CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), IS-317.* It provides background information on the concept of community members being able to work together during a disaster.  
Access this course at: <[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is317.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is317.asp)>.
- *Basic Incident Command System, IS-195.* Access this course at:  
<[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp)>.
- *Livestock in Disasters, IS-111.* Access this course at:  
<[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is111.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is111.asp)>.

Other courses that might be useful with this module include:

- *Emergency Preparedness, IS-2.* Access this course at: <[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is2.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is2.asp)>.
  - *State Disaster Management (IS-208).* Access this course at:  
<[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is208.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is208.asp)>.
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- *The EOC's Role in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities* (IS-275). Access this course at: <[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is275.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is275.asp)>.
- *The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management* (IS-288). Access this course at: <[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is288.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is288.asp)>.
- *Disaster Basics* (IS-292). Access this course at: <[training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is292.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is292.asp)>.

A listing of all the IS courses offered by FEMA can be found at:  
<[training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/crslist.asp](http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/crslist.asp)>.

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