

**Miami-Dade County, Florida
Emergency Operations
Center (EOC)**

**ESF #17
Animal Protection**



Delivering Excellence Every Day

March 28, 2008

Miami-Dade County Department
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ESF 17 – Animal Protection

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INTRODUCTION

General Responsibilities

ESF-17 (Animal Protection) is responsible for the acquisition of resources and the coordination of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all animals, large or small, domestic or exotic, before, during, and after a disaster.

This SOP serves as an instructional manual for those involved in the preparedness, response, and recovery phase of an incident or disaster. It further serves as a basic foundation from which sound decisions may be made regarding ESF-17.

The objective of ESF-17 is to assist all animals affected by a disaster by coordinating the following services, which include but are not limited to:

1. Food, water, and shelter
2. Search and rescue
3. Emergency and non-emergency medical care
4. Diagnosis, prevention, and control of diseases
5. Elimination of parasitic infestation
6. Animal security and quarantine
7. Proper disposal of animal carcasses
8. Control and care of stray, lost, or abandoned large animals (horses, cattle etc.)
9. Control of escaped exotic animals
10. Reunification with owners
11. Adoptions of abandoned animals

The lead agency for ESF-17 is Miami-Dade Animal Services (MDAS). They are charged with ensuring the success of ESF-17's mission; to provide for the safety, prevent or reduce the suffering, and assure the care for all animals before, during, and after a disaster. This includes household pets, working or recreation animals, commercial livestock, poultry, fish, exhibition (racing) animals, zoo animals, and laboratory and research animals. MDAS is responsible for the acquisition of resources and coordination of efforts.

The Animal Protection Group (ESF-17) will be activated at the discretion of the Operations Section Chief. Upon activation ESF-17 will operate in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Prioritization of ESF-17 resource requests will be based upon the primary objective of the prevention of animal suffering.

2. During the emergency response period it may be necessary for the ESF-17 to rely on local resources and agencies to act individually, based upon their individual disaster action plans.
3. In the event that a resource request exceeds the corporate resources of the ESF-17 group, ESF-17 will request assistance from ESF-7 through the Human Services Branch Director.
4. Prepare Incident Briefing Reports on all ESF -17 activities for the Operations Section Chief through the Human Services Branch Director.
5. Brief RIAT teams of the animal needs and resources.

Local Support agencies identified to coordinate with ESF 17 include, but are not limited to:

1. Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEM&HS)
2. Miami-Dade Police Department
3. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department
4. Metro-Zoo
5. Miami-Dade County Agriculture Extension Office
6. VOAD
7. The Humane Society of Greater Miami (Adopt-a-Pet)
8. Miami-Dade County Public Health
9. ASPCA
10. American Kennel Club

Out of County support agencies, incorporating private, state, and federal resources, include but are not limited to:

1. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
2. Florida SART (State Agriculture Response Team)
3. U.S. Public Health VMAT (Veterinary Medical Assistance Team)
4. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) Disaster Animal Response Team (DART)
5. Sunshine State Horse Council
6. United Animal Nations EARS (Emergency Animal Rescue Service)

Activation Levels and Activities

Level 3 Monitoring

The EOC maintains Level 3, Monitoring, unless an event so warrants an accelerated level of activation. ESF 17 maintains normal operations during this level unless an imminent threat warrants a pre-event planning meeting. Should this occur, the lead agency will make every effort to provide a representative to the EOC. At a minimum they are to participate by conference call.

Level 2 Partial

1. Receive initial briefing from the Human Services Branch Director.
 - 1a. Discuss with the Human Services Branch Director, the level of involvement in the incident for the County Emergency Operations Center.
2. Alert animal control shelters to have operation plans in place.
3. Increase stocks of food and water at the shelters.
4. Coordinate with ESF-15 (Volunteers and Donations) to provide staff for Pet-Friendly Hurricane Evacuation Center.
5. Coordinate with ESF-14 (Public Information) to assure that information regarding animal safety and sheltering is provided in a timely manner.
6. Compile preliminary needs assessment based upon prior experience and predicted conditions and deliver to the Human Services Branch Director.
7. Produce and update incident briefing report(s) as relevant incidents develop.
8. Identify and coordinate with the vendors to provide emergency provisions for the working crews after the incident or event.
9. Develop and maintain a database of medical volunteers and agencies that will provide care assistance.

ESF-17 will facilitate and coordinate the health and welfare the general animal population in Miami-Dade County. The procedure for receiving, evaluating, prioritizing, and acting upon resource requests are as follows:

1. The ESF-17 lead agency receives the resource request.
2. The ESF-17 functional group will then evaluate and prioritize the request based upon comparative urgency and available resources.
3. ESF-17 will then advise the resource originator and the Human Services Branch Director of the estimated completion time for the request.
4. If the resource request exceeds the available/obtainable resources of the Human Services Group, the Human Services Branch Director will re-direct the request to Logistics (ESF-7).

Level 1 Full Activation

During Level 1 activation, the major responsibilities of the Animal Protection ESF are similar to the Level 2 responsibilities listed above. The primary difference between Level 2 from Level 1 is that operations will shift to multiple agency involvement and will likely extend to a 24-hour basis.

The ESF 17 responsibilities remain the same.

PROCEDURES

Planning and Information

The Situation Reports produced by ESF-17 during each operational period is forwarded electronically to the Operations Section Chief through the Human Services Branch Director. The Operations Section Chief then briefs the Planning and Intelligence Section (ESF-5) on any significant issues. Planning and Intelligence consolidates the information received and prepares for an incident action plan meeting. In this meeting, planning and strategy for the next operational period is developed and an Incident Action Plan is developed.

Response

Although the required responsibilities of Animal protection (ESF-17) during an event are unchanged, the level of response varies significantly with the character and intensity of the incident or disaster being experienced by the county. In the case of geo-specific incidents such as tornadoes, hazardous material spills, terrorist acts, and transportation accidents, the response phase takes place in real time synchronization with the event. This is due to the fact that these event occur without prior warning, thus eliminating the pre-disaster phase

The lack of warning is compensated for in a sense due to the fact that geo-specific incidents are rarely wide ranging enough to affect the whole county. This is not the case with hurricanes and floods. In these cases it may not be possible to affect a response immediately due to weather conditions.

Recovery

Recovery is defined as the period after the event wherein temporary measures are taken to start the return of infrastructure and society to normalcy. The protection of animals and their restoration to their owners is a great step in the restoration of the fabric of society.

ESF-17 is responsible for the health, shelter, and wellbeing of lost, sick, abandoned, and injured animals after the event. This responsibility includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Appropriate temporary shelter for impounded animals.
2. Food and water.
3. Basic Veterinary Services.
4. Acquisition (when available) of mobile animal care unit (in partnership with Greater Miami Humane Society)
5. Tagging and tracking of all impounded animals.
6. Maintaining contacts for low income and devastated communities for the purpose of re-uniting animals with their owners.
7. The coordination of dead animal removal with Roads and Bridges.
8. The maintenance and staffing of MASH sites.

Demobilization

Just prior to deactivating the EOC, Planning, in concert with Incident Commander and Operations Section Chief, will formulate a demobilization plan for use by Operations to coordinate a closure schedule for each of the functional groups. This plan will be used in concert with ESF-17 list of existing obligations and delegated resources, to schedule an orderly deactivation under the supervision of the Human Services Branch Director.



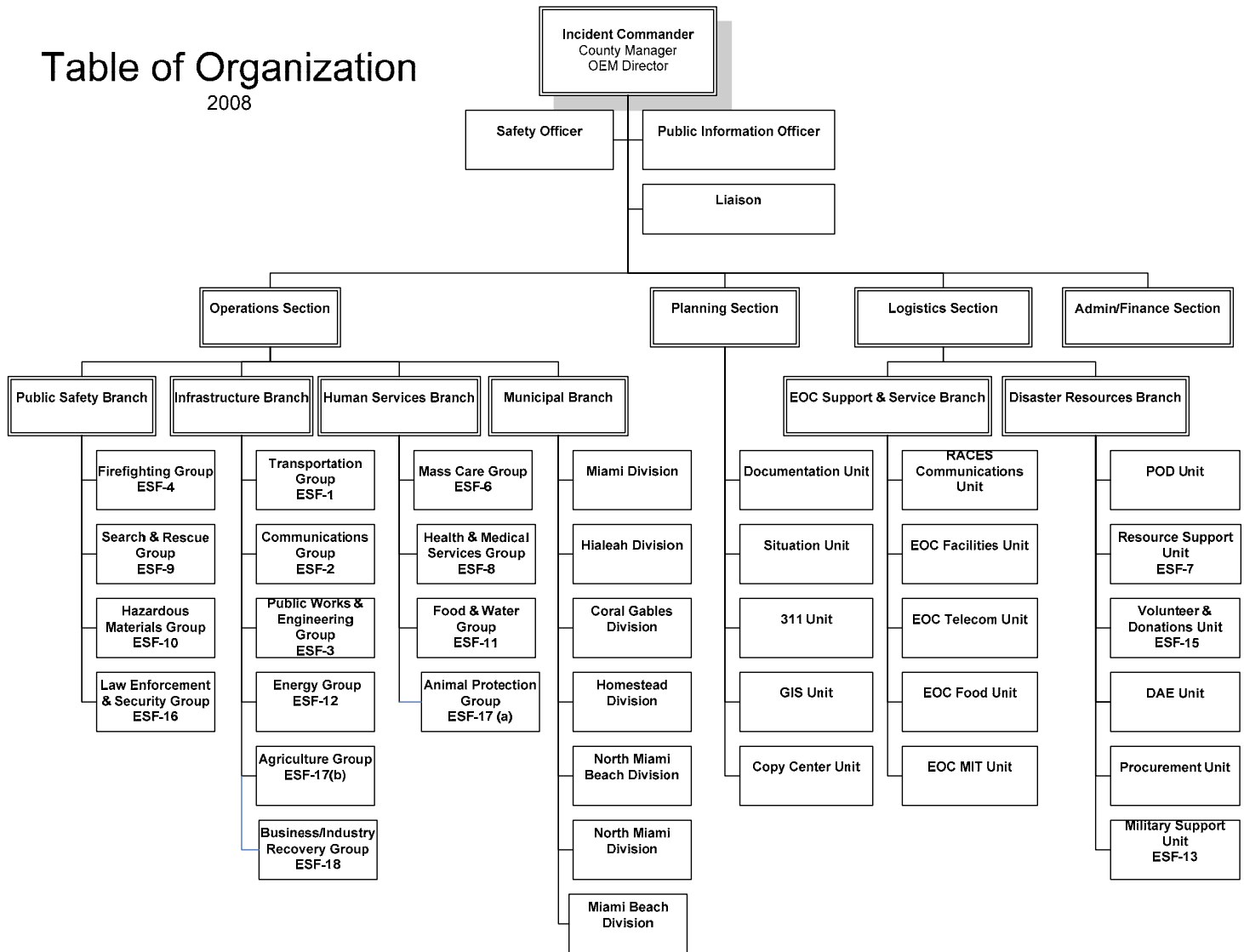
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APPENDIX

Appendix 1: EOC Table of Organization

Table of Organization
2008



Appendix 2: Pre-Disaster Checklist

Status		Checklist – Pre-Disaster ESF #17 – Animal Protection
Pending	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate animal control shelters (if needed – MDAS Kennels)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare to open the Pet Friendly Hurricane Evacuation Center if so directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase food and water supplies at animal control shelters
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a list of available animal shelter spaces to the PIO and coordinate messages to the public
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a preliminary needs assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an Incident Briefing Report during each operational period
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and coordinate with vendors to provide emergency provisions for the working crews during and after the event.

Appendix 3: Post-Disaster Checklist

Status		Checklist – Post-disaster ESF #17 – Animal Protection
Pending	Complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify temporary shelters for impounded animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reassess food, water, ice, and supplies at all animal control shelters and secure delivery of depleted provisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate the mobile animal care unit (If needed – Greater Miami Humane Society)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and record all animals impounded after the event
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate reunification sites at low income and impacted area
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate removal of carcasses with Roads and Bridges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate MASH units

Appendix 4: Geographic location of Functional Group

