ANIMAL EMERGENCIES IN AN AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Program Description & Needs

Large Animal Rescue Training (LART)

MANAGING AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCIES

PAgricultural Rescue Training

Animal Emergencies in an Agricultural Environment
Length 20 hours

Overview

Emergencies involving farm animals can challenge even the most experienced emergency provider or animal handler. These animals are sometimes victims of a variety of different emergency situations including floods, building collapse, disease, highway incidents, fires, stuck in unusual places, to name just a few. In stressful situations, farm animals are very unpredictable and can pose significant danger to themselves, the general public and those individuals that are trying to help or contain them. Specialized training is needed to ensure animal safety and the safety to those responding. This course will provide the training necessary for County Animal Response Team (CART) members and emergency services first responders to be able to assist on the scene with emergencies and disasters involving farm animals.

The training will include classroom instruction and detailed hands-on exercises that will allow the participants to practice their new knowledge and skills. There will be extensive hands-on exercises involving farm structures and live animals.

Who should attend

- First Responders and CART members who want to develop operational skills and procedures for managing various farm animal related emergencies in their community.
- Managers of emergency response organizations who want to understand procedures, techniques, and response activities unique to agricultural emergencies and disasters.
- Extension Educators and others that want to understand the important issues related to emergency responders and CART personnel so they can be more effective with local training support.

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Prerequisites

You must be a member or employee in good standing of a first response or community response organization or agency and have completed the basic training of that organization or agency in accordance with the AHJ (authority having jurisdiction—i.e. chief officer). Proof of this is by signature of a chief officer of your organization or agency. You must have also taken Agricultural Emergencies-Awareness, IS-100.a Introduction to the Incident Command System; IS-700.a: National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Haz-Mat Awareness. Copies of pre-requisite certificates must be provided prior to entry into the class.

Personal protective equipment required: agency or department attire. At the very least, all participants must have a helmet, work gloves, sturdy closed toed shoes/boots and long pants or coveralls.

Topics covered

Types of emergency incidents involving farm animals; basic animal behavior; handling various farm animals; foreign animal and zoonotic diseases; biosecurity on the farm and in the field; emergency euthanasia and carcass disposal; animal first aid and toxicology; liability issues in caring for animals; emergency scene management and professionalism. This training involves approximately 8 hours of lecture format combined with 12 hours of active hands on activities involving live animals and mannequins.

Course objectives

- Discuss the behavior characteristics of various farm animals and demonstrate how to safely restrain and move them.
- Discuss the importance of teamwork between emergency responders and farm animal specialists in managing emergencies involving farm animals.
- Demonstrate effective use of the ICS during emergency scenarios involving farm animals.
- Demonstrate proper emergency first aid care techniques on farm animals.
- Demonstrate how to recognize, utilize, and improvise a variety of equipment and techniques in animal rescue scenarios.
- Describe appropriate resources that should be requested to the scene of an emergency involving farm animals.
- Demonstrate proper incident management steps during farm animal related emergency scenarios.

Local Resources Needed

1. Facility

    a. Classroom to accommodate up to 30 participants with comfortable seating at tables. Room able to be darkened enough to accommodate PowerPoint presentations. 2-4 hours each day.

    b. Hands-on areas: 3-4 areas where animals can be contained while allowing ample space to move them around to practice animal handling procedures. Inside and outside facilities are ideal. Also a large area (approximately 500’ x 500’ at least) where large and small farm animals can be contained during a rescue/emergency scenario. Fairground facilities with arenas are ideal for the above requirements.

2. Animals

    a. Large farm animals such as cattle, horses, llamas, alpacas, etc. 4-6 of each.

    b. Smaller farm animals such as goats, sheep, swine, etc. 4-6 of each.

    These animals will be used in animal handling exercises of leading, loading, haltering, herding and first aid. Arrangements must be made to transport, feed and water, and clean up after the training.

3. Miscellaneous

    a. Lunch and snack breaks should be provided

    b. Restroom facilities must be available

    c. Ample parking for class participants and easy access for large emergency vehicles

    d. Local emergency services involvement is highly encouraged.

4. Personal protective equipment required: agency or department attire. At the very least, all participants must have a helmet, gloves, sturdy closed toed shoes/boots and long pants or coveralls.