

## Questions and Answers: The National Veterinary Stockpile and 3D Response Support Services

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), provides support to States, Tribes, and Territories responding to damaging animal disease outbreaks. Within 24 hours, the NVS can provide veterinary countermeasures—including certain types of animal vaccines, antivirals, supplies, equipment, and response services—to animal health officials in affected areas. To learn more about this program, see the NVS factsheet on APHIS' Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/content/printable\\_version/veterinary\\_stockpile.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/veterinary_stockpile.pdf).

NVS provides depopulation, disposal, and decontamination (3D) response support through a variety of contractors.

### Q. What are 3D response support services?

**A.** "3D" refers to depopulation, disposal, and decontamination activities. These activities commonly require the rapid deployment of large numbers of response personnel and equipment. The NVS maintains contracts with all-hazards emergency response companies to assist with 3D operations as needed and serves as the single point-of-contact within APHIS for 3D response support services.

### Q. What types of services can 3D contractors provide?

**A.** 3D response support services include:

- **surge personnel** fully equipped with personal protective equipment;
- **decontamination equipment and mobile teams** to support field responders onsite;
- **waste management and disposal**, including carcass and debris recovery, handling, and disposal;

- **hazardous and infectious material transportation** and access to landfills;
- **staging area setup** and operations for distribution of equipment and materials;
- **certified operators for special equipment**, including forklifts, skid loaders, and heavy trucks/equipment; and
- **special equipment** such as mobile command centers, emergency power and lighting, pumps/pressure washers, and satellite terminal and radio communications.

### Q. How experienced are the 3D contractors in responding to agricultural emergencies?

**A.** All of our 3D contractors receive annual training from NVS specific to agricultural emergency response. We design this training to ensure that our contractors are proficient—and efficient—in responding to these types of emergencies and in using NVS equipment and resources. Our contractors also participate in the NVS exercise program, which reinforces lessons learned and prepares them on an operational level for responding to agricultural emergencies.

The 3D contractors are also highly trained in all-hazards emergency response and are capable of deploying with their own equipment and supplies. They are experts in decontamination and disposal operations, including State requirements for transporting and disposing of hazardous materials. The contractors operate within the National Incident Management System.

### Q. How quickly will 3D contractors arrive onsite? What is their surge capacity?

**A.** The 3D contractors will arrive within 24 hours of receiving the approval to deploy and report to Incident Command. Depending on services required, the contractors can deploy approximately 600 personnel within 72 hours and 1,000 personnel within a week.

### Q. What happens if there are simultaneous events and multiple requests for 3D services?

**A.** We work with multiple 3D contractors to ensure redundancy in coverage.

It is a common business practice in the all-hazards emergency response industry for companies to work together to get the job done. For example, during

the first days of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, NVS conducted an unannounced notification exercise with our 3D contractors while conducting a full-scale deployment exercise with one of the 3D companies in attendance. All 3D contractors indicated they had the capability to respond to an agricultural emergency while responding to the oil spill at the same time.

**Q. How do I request 3D services during an animal disease event?**

**A.** Call our 24/7 emergency hotline at 1-800-940-6524.

**Q. If I have questions about NVS or 3D services, who should I contact?**

**A.** Email us at [nvs@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:nvs@aphis.usda.gov) with any questions. More information is also available on our Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/emergency\\_management/nvs.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/nvs.shtml).

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