

Subject: Depopulation, Disposal, and Decontamination (3D) Commercial Services

Q: Is it true that the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) has commercial service contracts that will help States depopulate, dispose, and decontaminate?

A: Yes. The NVS has contracts with multiple, all-hazards, response companies that can quickly provide large numbers of trained personnel with equipment to support States that do not have enough of their own personnel. We refer to these contractors as 3D contractors for the depopulation, disposal, and decontamination services they provide.

Q: What do 3D contracts provide?

A: Our contracts are basic ordering agreements (BOA) that the Coast Guard established competitively with companies that respond to all environmental hazards. They provide teams of skilled personnel and general laborers that come with their own equipment.

- Teams include personnel that are
 - Respirator fit tested and trained to use personal protective equipment in compliance with OSHA standards,
 - Trained and certified for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER),
 - Medically examined and approved by a physician to respond to hazardous situations,
 - Self-sufficient. Teams provide their own supplies, PPE, and equipment when they deploy initially.
 - Accustomed to working in an incident command system. A team will report to the Planning Section Chief when it arrives to identify the number of people and equipment it brings and to determine the additional people and equipment the Planning Chief may need. Thereafter, the team will report to the Operations Section Chief for assignments.
- Team staffing can expand dramatically from 600 personnel within 3 days; 1,000 within 7 days; and more if required.
- Equipment that a team brings will depend on your requirements but may include
 - Large earth moving equipment such as bulldozers, backhoes, and skidsteers
 - Vehicles of all types
 - Portable command centers with support modules for sleep, food, and hygiene
 - Communication radios
 - Computers,
 - Personnel protective equipment, and
 - Depopulation equipment for poultry.
- Team expertise includes
 - Transporting and disposing of hazardous and biologic waste including State and federal permitting to support both

- Decontamination (cleaning and disinfecting)
- Depopulation. This is the one skill the teams provide no other agency although their experience fighting fires with foam has helped them quickly learn poultry depopulation methods using foam. We provide hands-on, veterinarian supervised, depopulation training for poultry, cattle, hogs, goats, and sheep.

Q: What if I need support that is not on the BOA?

A: The contracts include procedures for tasking the companies to perform services that are not priced on the BOA. If you need other services, our contracting officer and we will discuss the service with you, determine if the BOA allows it, and work with you to provide it.

Q: Do the contractors cover my area of the country?

A: Yes. Currently, our contractors provide national and regional coverage as follows. We will add more BOA contractors as we qualify them.

- National: 3
- East: 3
- Midwest: 2
- Gulf: 3
- West: 2

Q: How can I be confident that the contractors know what they're doing?

A: Our contractors are a select group of the 80 available on the Coast Guard BOA that we have qualified. All have expertise operating within the National Incident Management System that States and APHIS use to manage response. All provide disposal and decontamination services daily for other agencies, which makes them very proficient at transporting and disposing of hazardous waste and at cleaning and disinfecting premises. All have experience depopulating because of the hands, on, veterinarian supervised training we provide.

Q: My State has rigid regulations for the transport and disposal of biological and hazardous waste. Will the contractors comply with the regulations?

A: All of our contractors employ personnel who know State and federal regulations for transporting and disposing of biological and hazardous waste. Our contractors are familiar with common disposal methods and can support

- Onsite or remote composting,
- Onsite or remote burial,
- Thermal destruction (including air curtain incineration and fixed incineration)

Q: How fast can the contractors be on site and what is their surge capability?

A: An initial contractor team will typically report to incident command (typically the Planning Section Chief) within 24 hours. Depending on the services command requires, our contractors can have approximately 600 personnel on site within 3 days and 1,000 within a

week. How many respond, when they respond, and the equipment they respond with will depend on your circumstances and requirements.

Q: What if the scale of an event is larger than one contractor can handle?

A: One of two things will happen when you ask for help. Either we will recommend deploying multiple contractors or let a prime contractor subcontract to another for additional capability. A common business practice in the all-hazards response industry is for contractors to support one another. If one contractor does not have the resources to complete a job, it will typically sub-contract work to a competitor to get the job done.

Q: How do I request 3D support?

A: The general process for requesting 3D support from APHIS is the following

- You conclude that the State does not have enough resources to respond.
- You call our emergency response hotline (800.940-6524) to request 3D support and describe the help you need and the reason you need it.
- We contact APHIS senior management who determine whether your request justifies deploying a contractor.

Q: What information should I provide when I request 3D support?

A: We will want to know four things

- Why you need help
- What help you need (i.e. all 3D services or one or more of the services) and the amount of help you need, and
- Where you need help
- If funding is available to pay for the help

Q: What will happen after APHIS' approves 3D support?

A: Once APHIS approves the deployment of a 3D contractor, the following will happen

- You provide a short statement of work (SOW). We can provide examples of previous SOWs to help with this effort. Your SOW should describe the support you need, the location where you need it, and the estimated amount of support you think you need given circumstances at the time.
- We will quickly review the SOW and may suggest changes based on what our contracting officer will want to see.
- We identify a contractor who can respond quickly and has the capability and training to support you.
- We email your SOW to our contracting officer and call to discuss the requirement and contractor
- Before authorizing work to begin, our contracting officer typically will confirm that

- The contractor will charge BOA rates
- A federal employee (but not necessarily someone with COTR training) will approve the contractor's daily activities and sign off on its time sheets
- The contractor will provide a cost estimate of the work within a reasonable period, typically a couple days after work begins.
- Funding is available for initial tasks. Contracting will not authorize work to begin unless adequate funding exists.
- Depending upon the urgency of your requirement, our contracting officer may issue a verbal or written authorization to proceed, and
- We will convene a conference call with incident command, other officials, the contractor, and possibly our contracting officer to discuss the support the State needs, establish when and how the company will respond, and answer questions.

This process has historically taken as little as a couple hours. The time to create an SOW that adequately describes the help you need will be a key factor.

Q: Who will pay for contractor support?

A: Who pays for contractor support depends on the reasons for the support.

- For the response to a damaging animal disease outbreak or another animal disease of concern, APHIS will pay for the support if the State follows the procedures above for requesting the support. States that do not follow the procedures will have to pay for the support.
- For the response to a national disaster such as floods and hurricanes in 2008 where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issues an ESF-11 mission assignment to the State, the Federal Government will typically pay 75 percent of the cost under the Stafford Act with the State paying the remaining 25 percent.

Q: I don't know much about the NVS, what does it do? What are its responsibilities?

A: The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) is the nation's repository of vaccines, supplies, equipment, and other critical veterinary countermeasures. Established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 and operational in 2006, we are able to deploy large quantities of veterinary resources anywhere in the continental U.S. within 24 hours. We exist because of the nation's concern after 9/11 that terrorists could release animal diseases of catastrophic proportions that would

- Deplete State and local response inventories,
- Generate surge material requirements that would overwhelm traditional commercial sources, and
- Prevent unaffected States from providing significant help for fear of the threat crossing their borders.

Q: If I have more questions, how do I get answers?

A: Email us at nvs@aphis.usda.gov. We will respond quickly.