



**Honshu Japan Earthquake/Pacific
Tsunami/Radiation Release
Japan and the Pacific Coast
March 11, 2011
ESF 11 After Action Report (AAR)**



Incident Summary

ESF 11 was activated by FEMA RX March 11, 2011 following a 9.0 magnitude earthquake in Japan which resulted in a West Coast Tsunami Advisory/Warning for the states for AK, OR and WA. Communication with AK, OR and WA State emergency operations centers (EOC), APHIS programs, state ESF 11 contacts and FEMA Region X ESF 6/Individual Assistance included no requests for Federal ESF 11 assistance as of 1400 hours 3-11-11. ESFs were released from the RRCC no later than 1600 hours March 11 and ESF 11 coverage continued on reach back status until March 14.

In the weeks following, due to radiation release from the damaged Japanese nuclear power plant, the R10 ESF 11 Coordinator participated in a number of conference calls regarding radiation. Topics of concern included: monitoring and testing (milk, air, drinking and rain water, and subsistence foods), public health and safety messaging, federal and state agency coordination, and evacuation of U.S. citizens and household pets from Japan to Region X. Call participants included FEMA Regions IX and X, ESF 8 (Health and Human Services to include Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control), ESF 11 (Department of Agriculture), ESF 10 (Environmental Protection Agency), State agencies (Emergency Management, Agriculture, Health, Environmental agencies), Canadian Health and Agriculture agencies, and Alaskan Native agencies/programs.

Lessons Learned

What went well

1. ESF 11 Coordinator received notice of FEMA activation via voicemail at 2 am, reported to FEMA Coordination Center within 3 hours of confirmation of activation, established ESF 11 desk, prepared and submitted ESF 11 Resource Request Workbook, and notified APHIS Programs, ESF 11 partner agencies and State ESF 11 contacts in a timely manner. Coordinator received good situational awareness via state EOC status reports and employee status reports from APHIS programs and was notified of State Emergency Board activation by Farm Service Agency.
2. ESF 11 Coordinator received Resource Order for deployment from Dispatch, maintained communication and coordination with APHIS western region, National Coordinator, and APHIS Mission Assignment Manager.
3. Good interaction of federal ESF's 8, 10 and 11; increased awareness of the EPA RADNET monitoring/testing program by all involved; ESF 11 suggested/requested EPA include state agricultural agencies on milk testing coordination calls; and USDA APHIS WR and headquarters were kept informed via written summaries of conference calls in which ESF 11 participated.

Areas for improvement

1. Remembering to notify Dispatch when departing RRCC or returning to duty station.
2. The initial MA received on March 11 was incomplete (missing signature block). It was returned to FEMA and an approved MA was received March 14. An APHIS accounting code was soon assigned to the MA.
3. All federal agencies faced the same challenge of not having pre-approved, releasable information to share with the states in a timely manner regarding public health and safety concerns or other radiation issues.