

ESF #11 FSIS Media Authorities and Procedures
August 1, 2007

Public Affairs Authorities for ESF #11

The ultimate authority for public affairs policy and procedures during an emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 activation is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In terms of public affairs, when ESF-11 is activated, FEMA will open a Joint Information Center (JIC) on or near the site of the emergency.

The ultimate authority for public affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) during an ESF-11 activation is Angie Harless with the Office of Communications (OC) in Washington D.C. She and OC will coordinate with FEMA at the highest levels to ensure the FEMA public affair office considers USDA messaging when making statements or releasing information related to USDA emergency operations.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Public Affairs Chain of Command and Contacts

Amanda Eamich (or delegate) with FSIS Congressional and Public Affairs Office (CPA) will work to coordinate FSIS information with that of USDA OC. Ms. Eamich will coordinate message development with USDA OC as well those employees in the field or at headquarters.

Public Affairs Specialists will be dispatched upon request by the USDA, the Office of Food Safety, Incident Commander (IC), or FEMA.

Depending upon the size of the activation, there could be a number of JICs (FEMA, Region, State, County, on-site) each supported by an FSIS/USDA public affairs specialist as needed on site or remotely. The JICs will coordinate with the field personnel, other JICs, as well as USDA, FEMA, and other stakeholders.

Media Questions:

Any questions received by DPAS, LPAS, or the SDPAS should be referred to HQ.

Requesting Information or Assistance from CPA

The easiest way to request help through FSIS CPA during an ESF-11 activation, unless otherwise directed, is to work with the closest DPAS, LPAS, or SDPAS who are on-site and/or Ms. Eamich with FSIS. Ms. Eamich is always available to ESF-11 responders and field personnel at any level in the chain if needed or if there are problems.

USDA Contact **Angie Harless USDA**
202-720-6569 (Direct)
202-841-0832 (Cell)
202-720-4623 (OC Main)
Angie.Harless@usda.gov

Agency Contacts: **Amanda Eamich, FSIS CPA**
Direct Dial: 202-690-3112
CPA Main: 202-720-9113
Blackberry cell: 202-906-0948
Amanda.Eamich@fsis.usda.gov