



Please note: These procedures may be revised as the situation continues to change.

INTRODUCTION

An outbreak of ASF in either feral swine or domestic swine will have immediate and serious negative domestic economic and international trade impacts. It is imperative to emphasize any effective response to an outbreak of ASF in the United States will require unity of purpose from States, Tribes, private sector and USDA. No single entity can conduct ASF alone, but we can effectively respond together. Depending upon outbreak jurisdiction, response actions and authorities begin with the State or Tribe, with supporting USDA coordination, resources and authority.

The United States' primary eradication strategy for an ASF outbreak is stamping-out infected swine as there is, currently, no effective vaccine available for ASF virus in swine. A stamping-out response strategy is conducted with critical response actions including movement control (establishing Control Areas and Free Areas), increased biosecurity, increased surveillance (active and passive surveillance), epidemiological investigation and contact tracing.

USDA's immediate actions are as follows:

- USDA will issue a declaration of extraordinary emergency in order to effectively respond with appropriate resources and assist impacted States and Tribes.
- USDA will issue a 72-hour National Movement Standstill for a detection of ASF in domestic swine and/or feral swine.
- USDA endorsement of certificates for International trade of swine and pork products will stop, as determined by bilateral trade agreements (those that require United States free of African swine fever).

The 72-hour movement standstill is for live swine and swine germplasm only, not pork or pork products that passed FSIS inspection. All swine in interstate commerce at the start of the movement standstill will continue to their destination or return to point-of-origin. A standardized start and stop time for the national standstill will be established.

APHIS acknowledges that there will be significant challenges to eradicate ASF virus depending on the outbreak. As you know, an ASF outbreak may involve both domestic swine and/or feral pigs. Therefore, movement controls and other regulatory measures are critical since ASF is readily spread by infected swine and contaminated fomites.

It is essential movement controls are science and risk based so disruption to normal business is minimized and response resources appropriately allocated. To assist in doing so, contact tracing and network based controls (NBC) will be emphasized as well as standard Control Areas movement control. The use of contact tracing and NBCs will target response resources to high-risk epidemiologically linked premises during an ASF outbreak.

CHRONOLOGY OF ASF RESPONSE ACTIONS

Presumptive Positive Detection of ASF in the United States

- Rapidly obtain confirmatory diagnostic results from NVSL FADDL
- Establish State quarantine and hold orders on Infected Premises
- Establish Control Area(s) and movement controls
- Begin an epidemiological investigation and contact tracing activities
- Implement increased biosecurity measures
- Prepare communication plans and notifications
- Activate State and National Incident Management Teams
- Initiate incident management organizational structures and processes including the Incident Coordination Group
- Begin data collection and information management in State Systems and Emergency Management Response System 2.0 (EMRS2)

Confirmed Positive Detection of ASF in the United States

- Activate communication plans and provide notifications to stakeholders
- Implement National Movement Standstill for 72-hours
- Declare a USDA extraordinary emergency
- Continue epidemiological investigations and contact tracing activities
- Identify direct contact network premises
- Establish Network Based Controls (NBCs)
- Implement surveillance plans
- Activate NAHLN laboratories as needed
- Initiate appraisal, depopulation and disposal plans
- Execute timely and accurate information management
- Initiate public awareness messaging and communication campaign
- Implement and enforce increased biosecurity measures
- Continue surveillance and tracing activities
- Assess and characterize outbreak for locations, scale and scope identified
- Assess quarantines and movement controls
- Upon end of 72-hour National Movement Standstill implement continuity of business plans and permitting plans for Control Areas
- Upon end of 72-hour National Movement Standstill resume intrastate commerce and interstate commerce in Free Areas
- Continue to identify Infected Premises, establish Control Areas, conduct contact tracing and investigate Direct Contact Premises and Networks



Hour 73 Plus = Critical Response Actions Continue

72-Hour National Movement Standstill and “Hour 73”

Purpose of The 72-hour national movement standstill.

- 1) Communicate outbreak and implement immediate actions needed.
- 2) Establish initial or first Control Area(s).
- 3) Communicate location of initial Control Area(s) and Free Areas; i.e., communicate where movement controls and permits are needed at start of hour 73.
- 4) Conduct contact tracing for infected premises. Establish first Contact Premises and Network Based Controls for Contact Premises.
- 5) Increase national biosecurity and passive surveillance.
- 6) Increase national active surveillance with available capabilities.
- 7) Halt international trade of swine and pork products as necessary.
- 8) Assess and evaluate locations, scale, size and epidemiology of outbreak known at hour 72 for hour 73 actions.

National Movement Standstill: “Hour 73” Options

Depending upon the circumstances of the outbreak, USDA APHIS policy options for national movement standstill at hour 73 include:

- 1) The 72 Hour National Movement Standstill ends at hour 73.
 - Premises in Free Areas resume interstate commerce of swine and swine germplasm at hour 73. Premises not in Control Areas or not identified as Direct Contact Premises resume intrastate and interstate commerce.
 - Premises in established Control Areas will need permits for intrastate and interstate commerce.
 - Direct Contact Premises will need permits for intrastate and interstate commerce.
- 2) Continue national movement standstill for an additional period of time beyond hour 73.
- 3) Establish a regional or other smaller geographical or jurisdictional movement standstill for interstate commerce beyond hour 73.
- 4) Implement other actions as needed. For example, interstate commerce for swine to slaughter resumes within Free Areas at hour 73, but interstate commerce for finishing pigs within Free Areas resumes at hour 96 or other criteria.

Standards for 72-Hour National Movement Standstill

- 1) Geographical and jurisdictional area is nationwide.
- 2) All live swine, in transit at issuance of standstill, must reach a destination or return to point-of-origin and not be held in transit.
- 3) Standard national start time and end time for the movement standstill (i.e., 9:00am EST).
- 4) Live swine and germplasm are subject to the Movement Standstill.
- 5) Products exempt from Movement Standstill include USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)-inspected pork products or State-inspected pork products or other negligible risk products.

SUMMARY OF ASF RESPONSE REGULATORY ACTIONS

Swine Population Infected	State – Tribal Quarantine of Infected Premises	Control Area Plus Network Based Controls	USDA Extraordinary Emergency Declaration	72 hour National Movement Standstill
Feral Swine Only	N/A	Control Area + Network Based Controls*	Yes	Yes
Domestic Swine Only	Yes	Control Area + Network Based Controls	Yes	Yes

* Epidemiological investigation to ensure infected feral swine are in their biological home range and have not been moved by human activity out of the Control Area. Domestic swine in Control Area are subject to movement control and surveillance activities.

USDA APHIS ASF Preparedness and Response Information

The USDA APHIS FAD PReP website will be updated with any new ASF response and policy guidance during an active outbreak: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep>.

FAD PReP documents and materials directly related to ASF Include:

- [Planning & Preparing for African Swine Fever: Quick Briefing](#)
- [African Swine Fever Response Plan: The Red Book](#)
- [ASF Response: The Red Book Presentation](#)
- [Overview of the ASF Response Plan: The Red Book](#)
- [Summary of Initial ASF Response Actions RRG](#)
- [Critical Activities and Tools during an FAD Response RRG](#)
- [Swine Industry Manual](#)
- [APHIS ASF Website](#)

ASF RESPONSE STATE CHECKLIST

IS THERE A PRESUMPTIVE CASE OF ASF IN DOMESTIC OR FERAL SWINE?

- Reference the “Case Definition” if needed. Reference *ASF Response Plan: The Red Book*, Section 4.2.
- Communicate **immediately** with the VS Field Operations (FiOps) Area Veterinarian In-Charge (AVIC) and appropriate FiOps leadership. Reference VS Guidance 12001.4 if needed.
- If duplicate samples were collected during the initial investigation, ensure you have the tracking information of the sample sent to NVSL; if a sample will be forwarded from a NAHLN laboratory, check on its status and obtain tracking information.
- Anyone submitting diagnostic samples *must* ensure samples have accurate national premises ID numbers on samples *and* on sample submission forms.
- If samples still need to be collected and/or shipped, discuss speed/transport options with your VS AVIC **immediately**.
 - ◆ For a presumptive positive case of ASF, APHIS and State will begin elevated coordination and planning of response activities when presumptive positive case definition is met.
 - ◆ NVSL confirmation is needed for official OIE notifications: VS Strategy & Policy (S&P) will determine when bilateral and multilateral trade notifications are made.
 - ◆ Upon confirmed positive case, official response activities will begin.
- Immediately confer about depopulation with the company/producer involved and the appropriate State and APHIS officials (including appropriate method, required equipment and personnel, and other logistics). For initial case of ASF in a State, NVSL confirmation is required prior to depopulation if requesting funds from APHIS, the State Animal Health Official and APHIS must both agree to depopulation if requesting funds from APHIS.
- Discuss disposal options of carcasses and other materials (including appropriate method, required equipment and personnel, applicable regulations, etc.). The [APHIS Carcass Management Dashboard](#) is available to help you get started if needed. Please note, written verification that disposal operations are approved by the state environmental regulatory agency will be required if APHIS pays for disposal.
- Get premises loaded into EMRS2 and State systems, if your State does not have pre-loaded premises data. (Loading prior to an incident is strongly preferred, more information is [here](#)).
- NAHLN laboratories need to begin electronic messaging of results immediately, if not already doing so. If results are unable to be messaged, make sure a communication process is in place to relay results to all necessary parties, including EMRS2.
- Immediately initiate premises temporary hold order, quarantine, and/or some form of stop movement by State authority or Tribal authority upon strong suspicion of ASF on a premises. Confirmation of ASF by NVSL is *not* needed for States, or Tribes, to implement quarantines and/or movement controls on individual premises during an investigation.

THEN, REVIEW POLICY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS FOR RESPONSE...

ASF will be a new animal disease response for the USDA and States. Policy guidance documents will be produced and posted on APHIS website. Please communicate as much as needed with APHIS (FiOps and S&P) to ensure you are aware of existing guidance and have the appropriate information needed to respond.

Communication & Coordination

- ◆ State public affairs, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS Trade Staff, & industry should coordinate timing and content for **ANY** public announcements and bilateral trade notifications.
- ◆ Activate communication plans and provide notifications to stakeholders.
- ◆ Calls between relevant parties, including but not limited to appropriate APHIS officials, company officials, and affected States, should begin *immediately*. More communication is always better in an outbreak.

Zones and Premises

- ◆ Establish quarantine and hold orders on Infected Premises.
- ◆ Establish Control Area(s) and movement controls.
- ◆ Begin an epidemiological investigation and tracing activities.
- ◆ Implement increased biosecurity measures.
- ◆ Investigate direct contact premises.
- ◆ Movement related to animal business into, within, and out of a Control Area will cease due to initial 72-hour national movement standstill
- ◆ Establish Network Based Controls and implement surveillance plans.

Appraisal and Indemnity Procedures

- ◆ Initiate appraisal, depopulation and disposal plans.
- ◆ The Appraisal and Indemnity Request Forms for both swine owners and growers are the first documents that must be signed in order to commence depopulation activities.
- ◆ Ensure all information for the VS 1-23 is collected as soon as possible.

Depopulation

- ◆ To be most effective in stopping disease transmission, it is necessary to prioritize depopulation (of premises or even within a single premises) based on clinical signs and epidemiological information.
- ◆ Implement and enforce increased biosecurity measures on infected premises.
- ◆ All indemnity request forms, herd plans and State and APHIS approvals must be obtained.

Surveillance & Epidemiology

- ◆ Use the *ASF Epidemiology Questionnaire (note: under construction)* to quickly gather the most critical information about premises.

- ◆ Immediately initiate surveillance activities to determine any wildlife contact, particularly for feral swine, as well as an assessment to determine whether *Ornithodoros* spp. ticks are implicated in, or present a risk for, ongoing disease transmission.
- ◆ Rapidly follow up on any sick calls.
- ◆ Rapidly collect and share trace-forward and trace-back information to aid in disease control.
- ◆ Tracing should identify all movement onto and off of an Infected Premises that occurred within the last 30 days.
- ◆ Additionally, all premises or locations having a shared direct or indirect contact during the last 15 days with the Infected Premises will also be traced and subject to surveillance requirements.

3D Activities/NVS Support

- ◆ 3D activities include the depopulation, disposal, and decontamination during an outbreak.
- ◆ To contact the NVS and/or request resources, please email NVS@usda.gov.
- ◆ Review the [ASF 3D Guidance—Option Matrices and Considerations](#) which provides a summary of scientific data and best practices specific to ASF virus, and not necessarily based on field experience.
- ◆ State Disposal procedures must be effective and appropriate.
 - For landfilling, refer to the [ASF Landfill Disposal Guidance—Recommended Waste Acceptance Practices for Landfills](#) (*note: under construction*).

Biosecurity

- ◆ Rapidly implement increased biosecurity measures on any infected premises; responders also need to observe strict biosecurity procedures to prevent virus spread. The [Secure Pork Supply](#) plan provides further information on enhanced biosecurity plans.
- ◆ Owners, producers, veterinarians, and responders should observe strict biosecurity measures during an incident or suspected incident.
- ◆ Key aim is to contain the virus on infected premises (biocontainment) and prevent the introduction of ASF virus from the movement of personnel and fomites to naïve premises (bioexclusion).

Movement Control, Permitting, & Continuity of Business

- ◆ Determine appropriate zones, areas, and premises designations in the event of an ASF outbreak, and re-evaluate these designations as needed throughout the outbreak based on the epidemiological situation.
- ◆ Each State's animal health emergency response plans should describe the implementation of quarantine and movement controls. Initial movement standstills may occur at the State, Regional, or National level. Refer to the [ASF Initial Movement Guidance](#) for further information.
- ◆ The [Secure Pork Supply](#) plan provides permitting guidance and assists in preparing the swine industry, including producers, haulers, and packers to maintain business continuity during an outbreak.
- ◆ For general permitting, see [FAD PReP Manual 6-0 Permitted Movement](#); the EMRS2 Customer Permit Gateway can be used for permit requests— an [Overview of the EMRS2 Gateway](#) document is also available last updated in 2017.

Information Management

- ◆ Begin data collection and information management in State systems and EMRS2.
- ◆ Ensure processes are in place to maintain and report information; EMRS2 is the official system of record for USDA APHIS during an ASF outbreak. More information on EMRS2 is located [here](#).
- ◆ For general information management, see [FAD PReP Manual 3-0 Incident Information Management and Reporting](#).

More Information

- ◆ **The FAD PReP website will be updated with any new ASF response and policy guidance during an active outbreak:** <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep>.
- ◆ Other FAD PReP documents and materials relating to ASF are as follows:
 - [Planning & Preparing for African Swine Fever: Quick Briefing](#)
 - [African Swine Fever Response Plan: The Red Book](#)
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