

Texas Animal Health Commission

Logistics Plan

Attachment to State of Texas Foreign and Emerging Animal Disease (FEAD) Plan



National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS)

USDA – APHIS



Updated April 2014

Background

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (APHIS), Texas Office are responsible for ensuring the provision of the resources Texas needs during damaging animal disease outbreaks.

The TAHC Executive Director, also designated as the State Veterinarian or State Animal Health Official (SAHO) and the USDA APHIS Assistant District Director (ADD) for Texas, form a Unified Command to manage the response to a damaging animal disease outbreak. This multijurisdictional approach enables the primary agencies—which have different legal and functional authorities and responsibilities—to make joint decisions, establish a single set of incident objectives, and jointly manage resources.

Responsibilities of the agencies include planning resource support before an event and managing resource support during an event. They utilize resources (such as supplies, equipment, vaccines, and commercial support services) from all available sources, including the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS), State and Federal agencies, the private sector, and industry.

The NVS is the nation's repository of critical veterinary countermeasures for supporting the response to catastrophic animal disease outbreaks caused by terrorists or nature. Operational in 2006, the NVS holds large quantities of veterinary supplies, equipment, and vaccines that Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 9 requires it to deploy within 24 hours for the 17 most damaging animal diseases. It also has commercial support contracts with depopulation, disposal, and decontamination (3D) contractors that can deploy large numbers of trained personnel and equipment to help the State in *any* emergency response. This Logistics Plan and an associated Operating Guide define Texas' processes for supporting responders with resources from the NVS and from other sources.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and its response partners hold inventories of response items and equipment, but a catastrophic outbreak may quickly deplete their inventories. Unaffected States might provide assistance but only if they maintained means of responding to the threat if it crossed their borders.

The responsibilities and roles of other supporting state agencies and non-governmental entities in responding to a foreign animal disease outbreak are further delineated in the State of Texas Foreign and Emerging Animal Disease (FEAD) Plan. This support may include a variety of logistical functions including transportation, receipt, storage, and distribution of needed resources, including NVS resources.

This Logistics Plan is not designed to replace any part of the FEAD Plan. A more detailed Operating Guide is available to provide detailed instruction to TAHC personnel and/or partner groups who may be called upon to provide logistical support during a disease outbreak. While great emphasis is placed on use of the NVS, primarily due to the support and training provided by the USDA-APHIS NVS Program, logistical procedures can easily be applied to any disease or disaster situation.

Introduction

Purpose

This plan outlines the processes and responsibilities of TAHC, USDA-APHIS and other supporting agencies for providing responders with needed resources, including those held within TAHC, purchased from private sources, requested from other state and federal entities, and from the NVS.

State Authority and Scope

This Plan and the TAHC Logistics and NVS Operating Guide are subordinate to the State Emergency Management Plan:

State of Texas Emergency Management Plan – Annex O, Appendix 3 – Foreign and Emerging Animal Disease (FEAD) Plan

State of Texas Emergency Management Plan – Annex O, Appendix 6 – Animal Response Plan

Chapter 418.43(11) of the Texas Government Code

Federal/USDA/APHIS Authority

The Federal Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 gives APHIS broad authority to respond to animal disease and pest emergencies. The Act authorizes senior APHIS management to obtain and deploy resources, including the NVS. The NVS deploys when the SAHO and/or the ADD request NVS countermeasures, the APHIS District Director concurs, the Director of the NVS receives a request for the countermeasures, and a senior APHIS official approves the request.

Situations and Assumptions

Logistics under General Conditions

TAHC Staff Services and Emergency Management Departments maintain contact lists of all primary and supporting agencies with available personnel and equipment resources, as well as a list of private sector contacts for supply ordering. The TAHC Finance and Staff Services Departments maintain current knowledge of state purchasing procedures. Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) facilitates leasing of space in the most cost effective way for day-to-day operations.

Logistics during Emergency Conditions

During a damaging animal disease outbreak, Texas may rapidly deplete its response inventories. If it cannot acquire sufficient resources fast enough from its private sector or other sources to support the emergency response, it will request NVS countermeasures from APHIS.

During an emergency situation, TAHC may request assistance through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) State Operations Center (SOC) for obtaining resources and/or facility leasing.

TDEM has authority from the Texas Facilities Commission to lease additional warehouse space if needed during an emergency. Emergency purchasing procedures are in place for all state agencies through the Comptroller of Public Accounts. Detailed procedures are included in the Operating Guide. In addition, TDEM coordinates the filling of resource requests using assets from other state agencies through the Emergency Management Council.

Additional resources and personnel will also be available directly through the USDA APHIS-VS Texas office. The USDA APHIS area office will provide logistical support during a damaging animal disease outbreak. Support resources may include personnel, equipment, supplies, and logistical and inventory management expertise. To help with the logistical response, the ADD may request an APHIS VS incident management team, including an LSC and additional personnel, through the district office.

Assumptions

The following planning assumptions apply:

Texas will deplete its available resources during an outbreak of a damaging animal disease and may be unable to acquire enough in-state resources to support a prolonged or large-scale response.

As the nation's repository of critical veterinary countermeasures, the NVS exists to help provide states the resources they will need for response.

USDA-APHIS will quickly approve Texas' request for NVS countermeasures and will deploy/arrive in Texas within 24 hours.

If Incident Command approves the use of vaccination for a damaging animal disease, Texas will provide its requirements to the NVS, which will deliver the vaccines.

A damaging animal disease outbreak will require TAHC, USDA-APHIS, state, local, non-governmental, and private sector officials to coordinate their efforts for the logistics response to the outbreak.

Response to a damaging animal disease will likely occur over a prolonged period and may require changes in incident command structure, personnel, and support facilities over time to meet incident objectives.

Particularly if a damaging animal disease outbreak affects multiple states, the NVS may or may not be able to provide sufficient or ongoing supply of all resources for the length of a response, so the state may need to explore other sources of supplies and equipment.

Concept of Operations

Command and Control

Response to foreign and emerging animal diseases (as defined in the state FEAD response plan) is under the control of Unified Command formed by the SAHO and the USDA APHIS ADD. The execution of the procedures outlined in the TAHC Logistics and NVS Operating Guide will initially fall under the control of the Incident Commander designated by the SAHO. Once assigned, the Logistics Section Chief (LSC), as identified in the FEAD Plan, will be responsible for implementation of this plan and will be proactive in anticipating the need for receipt, storage, and distribution of NVS resources. After the event, the LSC will coordinate the return of specific items the NVS so others can use these resources in the future.

Resources

Initial Response Resources

TAHC maintains a minimal inventory of response equipment, personal protective equipment, supplies and trained personnel to provide immediate response to animal health incidents. Portions of this inventory are allocated to, and under the day-to-day management of, the seven (7) TAHC Regional Offices. Should TAHC need to order additional resources rapidly, the Finance Section will utilize established emergency purchasing protocols detailed in the Operating Guide.

Secondary Response Resources

State resources

TAHC may also request assistance, including a variety of resources, from other state agencies within Texas. The FEAD plan outlines how TAHC would obtain assistance from other agencies, but specific logistics support could come from several agencies in a coordinated fashion through the Emergency Management Council, organized by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

If needed, the Executive Director of TAHC will draft a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture and/or the Governor requesting a declaration of emergency, which will facilitate further outside requests for assistance through the SOC. In certain cases, a Stafford Act Declaration might also be requested.

In keeping with HSPD-9, the NVS may leverage, where appropriate, the infrastructure that has been developed for the Strategic National Stockpile through the support of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

TAHC may request assistance with resources from other states using the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) through the TDEM-SOC. EMAC is a national Governor's interstate mutual aid compact that facilitates the sharing of resources, personnel, and equipment across state lines during times of disaster and emergency.

Federal Resources

The response to a foreign and emerging animal disease (FEAD) will be led by the Texas Animal Health Commission and the USDA-APHIS-VS. If a Presidential Declaration is signed, federal assistance may be

requested using an Action Request Form (ARF). Requests will be made through the SOC and sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VI office for review and approval.

It is not necessary to have a Presidential, Governor's or Secretary of Agriculture's Declaration in order to request NVS resources. The NVS holds large quantities of veterinary countermeasures and commercial services that can be deployed within 24 hours. The TAHC Logistics and NVS Operating Guide details the actions to follow in order to justify and request NVS resources.

Once APHIS senior management orders NVS deployment, it provides additional personnel to support management of an incident and the State's use of the NVS. This will include deployment of an NVS Mobile Logistics Team (MLT) along with the NVS resource shipment.

Warehouse Activities

Warehouse Activities will be coordinated and carried out by the Support Branch of the Logistics Section, as outlined in the State of Texas FEAD Plan.

Warehouse Identification and Activation

TAHC uses limited warehouse space in Austin, TX for its daily operations, with additional disease response supplies disseminated throughout the state, at or near the seven (7) TAHC Region Offices. If the demand for receiving and storage of resources and supplies exceeds the normal daily operations capacity of TAHC, or if there is a foreseeable need to request NVS resources, the Logistics and Finance Sections will rapidly use information in the Operating Guide to determine appropriate warehouse facilities and/or distribution points to activate.

The requirements of a specific incident, including location, scale, and specific disease, as well as the time frame available to locate ideal warehouse space will dictate the specifics of warehouse location. While an initial receiving location may be identified through the SOC or other means, a coordinated effort may be required to obtain space closer to the actual outbreak and/or the Incident Command Post once it is established.

Warehouse Operations

Details on how to initiate operations of a warehouse, as well as a list of support supplies for warehouse operations are available in the Operating Guide.

The LSC will designate a Supply Unit Leader (SPUL) who will be responsible for warehouse operations. Additional positions in the warehouse will be filled at the SPUL's discretion according to the appropriate job descriptions. In the event that multiple warehouses are activated for the event, the SPUL will designate a Warehouse Manager for each facility. Otherwise, the SPUL will act as Warehouse Manager for the single facility. An ICS 203 form or equivalent electronic document should be provided to incident command listing personnel and contact information.

Receiving and Storing Shipments

The process for receiving and storing shipments from various sources will be determined by the Logistics Section Chief and will be dependent upon the incident. It may be appropriate to route general supply items to a general-purpose warehouse, with antiviral medications for responders routed to an appropriate climate-controlled facility, and large animal handling equipment to an area with ample secure open space. If one facility can meet all the needs for space and climate control then it may be used for all NVS purposes. Items requiring cold storage may be stored in a portable refrigeration unit on-site, or be directed to a different location from other NVS supplies, such as the Incident Command Post, TAHC Central or Region Office, or a nearby State-Federal Laboratory facility with adequate space for refrigerated materials. Biosecurity must be in place to prevent contamination of any warehouse sites.

Picking Orders and Preparing Orders for Distribution

Picking orders for issue will be done by a warehouse team (WT). If the incident is large, additional warehouse teams may be added under the direction of the Supply Unit Leader.

Controlling and Ordering Inventory

The Inventory Manager (IM) will control warehouse inventory. Inventory will be monitored with an electronic database provided by the NVS Program, or alternate inventory management system at the discretion of the Logistics Section Chief.

Distributing Inventory

Inventory may be distributed to field responders by letting them pick up their order at the warehouse (with appropriate biosecurity precautions), or by delivering the orders to responders at designated distribution points. A receipt will be signed by the individual receiving the items.

Recovering and Returning Inventory

The Supply Unit Leader will work with the Operation Section to ensure reusable items are decontaminated and collected from response sites. At the end of the event, warehouse personnel will package returned items for shipment to an NVS logistics center, in coordination with the NVS Mobile Logistics Team or the DMT at APHIS Headquarters. The NVS program will arrange and pay for pickup and return of items to the NVS inventory.

Deactivating Warehouses

Warehouses deactivate at the end of an event when the Incident Commander directs the demobilization of ICS staff and activities. A checklist in the Operating Guide will help ensure the completion of the demobilization activities on time. Durable goods will be accounted for before deactivation of the warehouse(s).

Communications

Adequate communications are critical to the success of resource management and safety of responders. Under the FEAD Plan, the Communications Branch of the Logistics Section will ensure that appropriate and interoperable communications are available to support warehouse operations and responders.

Protocols for communication with stakeholders in a disease outbreak are delineated in the State of Texas FEAD Plan and TAHC Emergency Management Guide. A 24-hour hotline is available for reporting of suspected foreign animal disease at 1-800-550-8242.

Security

TAHC will coordinate with state and local law enforcement officials, including the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to assess and ensure the security of warehouse facilities, equipment, personnel, and activities.

Exercising and Evaluating State NVS Plan

The TAHC and AVIC staff will train and exercise to improve the management of NVS countermeasures and other resources. Following personnel- and team-specific job training, initial exercises will focus on requesting, processing, and distributing NVS and other resources during a damaging animal disease outbreak. Subsequent full-scale exercises will integrate resource management and warehouse functions into the full complement of the ICS. The TAHC will evaluate training and exercises, and improve the plan and readiness to respond on the basis of lessons learned, in cooperation with USDA-VS and TDEM.

The Texas NVS exercise program is Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant. TAHC will maintain records as to training and exercises and will update the plan according to lessons learned from training and exercises. TDEM will ensure that NVS exercises are integrated into the overall state exercise schedule and provide support as needed.