

# FAD PReP/NAHEMS Tactical Topics:

## Biosecurity

Information is based on the **Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP)/National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) Guidelines: Biosecurity (2013)** to be used in training for or during an animal health emergency. References to the Guidelines sections are provided in parenthesis for more detail.

**Introduction/Overview:** Strictly adhere to established biosecurity protocols to prevent the introduction and spread of pathogenic agents onto or off of an animal production or housing premises.

**FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES: Contact your immediate supervisor. Follow chain of command.**

### Responsibilities within the ICS – Animal Biosecurity and Disease Prevention Group (Biosecurity Group) (3)

- Incident Commander (IC): Holds ultimate responsibility for biosecurity practices.
- Biosecurity Group Supervisor: Leads the Biosecurity Group which is part of the Operations Section. Prepares site-specific biosecurity plan, assesses need for biosecurity personnel and equipment, establishes training requirements, ensures personnel receive training, and coordinates biosecurity activities with other work groups.
- Biosecurity Team Leader: Ensures biosecurity measures are implemented and followed on assigned premises, coordinates with other work groups on matters such as movement of equipment, personnel and animals, and reports possible biosecurity breaches to Group Supervisor.
- Biosecurity Team Member: Works on Infected or Contact Premises to assist in containing and controlling disease outbreak. Enforces biosecurity procedures, reports potential biosecurity breaches to Team Leader.

### Sources of Information Regarding Biosecurity Procedures

- Initial orientation upon arrival at ICP, and daily briefings
- Information from Team Leader or Group Supervisor and the incident-specific biosecurity plan

### General Biosecurity Principles

#### Awareness (2.1)

- Be vigilant. Follow established biosecurity protocols. Fatigue, stress, and distractions can cause loss of attention. Focus on implementing biosecurity measures or the incident-specific biosecurity plan.

#### Routes of Transmission and Routes of Exposure (2.2)

- Understand the routes of transmission and potential exposure for the pathogenic agent(s) involved in the emergency to prevent transmission from animal to animal, or animal to human (zoonotic diseases).
- Implement measures to block the applicable routes of spread – aerosol, oral, direct contact, fomites, and/or by vectors.
- Utilize isolation, cleaning & disinfection (C&D), PPE, and vector control to prevent exposure.
- Take special precautions to avoid exposure to zoonotic diseases.

#### Clothing and PPE (2.3)

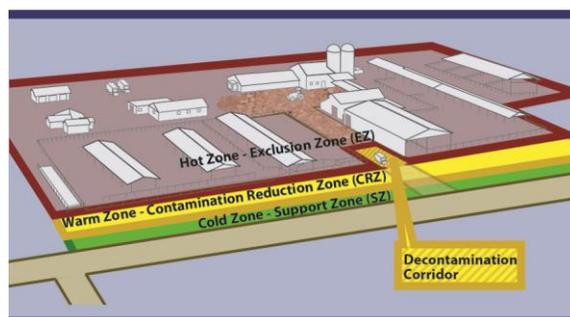
- Dress in protective, clean outerwear over street clothes before entering the contaminated area.
- Comply with incident-specific requirements regarding assigned outwear and PPE, including items for the body, hands, head, face/eyes, feet and respiratory system. Most animal health emergencies will require Level C PPE, but the level of protection is based on risk.
- Follow protocols for use, maintenance, donning, doffing, decontamination and/or disposal of PPE.
- Don PPE in the proper sequence to avoid cross contamination while doffing.
- Understand the risks and challenges of working in PPE; overheating, fatigue, impaired vision and movement. Utilize the buddy system.
- Recognize the importance of PPE as a biosecurity tool and as protection against hazards such as zoonotic exposure.

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### Preventing Contamination (2.5)

- Establish 3 Work Zones + Decontamination Corridor to control access.
- Enforce limited access of personnel, vehicles and equipment.
- Impose movement restrictions on affected animals.
- Clean/disinfect personnel, equipment and vehicles in the Decontamination Corridor.
- Keep a log of movements of personnel, equipment and vehicles.
- Avoid walking through contaminated areas.
- Avoid direct contact with contaminated surfaces.
- Limit the time equipment and vehicles are in contaminated areas.
- Do not carry cigarettes, gum, lip balm, food or drink into contaminated areas.
- Bag sample containers and decontaminate the outside of the bag before removing from the site.



### General Biosecurity Practices for Those Visiting Multiple Premises (2.4)

#### Premises Visits

- Coordinate with the Biosecurity Group prior to visit to confirm on-site biosecurity plan.
- Only enter a premises if authorized by Incident Command, or authorized/accompanied by a facility owner/employee.
- Follow biosecurity practices on all premises (including "backyard" facilities) as directed by biosecurity plan.
- Maintain a separation between clean and contaminated items.
- Carry adequate C&D supplies for each visit.

#### Clothing

- Maintain an adequate supply of clean protective clothing/PPE for each visit.
- Wear clean protective outer clothing and properly store/disinfect/dispose of contaminated outerwear.
- Wear rubber boots, disposable plastic boots or other footwear that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Properly clean and disinfect boots before entering and before leaving an animal facility.
- Wear disposable gloves. Sanitize hands with an antibacterial soap/gel before entering and leaving a premises.
- Follow strict donning doffing steps to avoid cross contamination when removing outerwear/PPE.

#### Vehicles

- Designate separate "clean" and "dirty" storage areas.
- Keep contaminated items securely contained until C&D'd.
- Park vehicle in designated area (Cold Zone) away from animal areas, preferably on a hard surface.
- C&D the vehicle between visits to premises, especially the underside, wheels and wheel wells.
- Decontaminate vehicle interior as necessary.

#### Contact with Infected Animals

- Comply with disinfection procedures and the waiting period prescribed by Incident Command before contacting other susceptible animals.