



# NAHERC Quarterly

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## National Level Exercise 2011

**NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE CORPS**

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The National Level Exercise (NLE) 2011 was a White House directed Congressionally-mandated exercise conducted May 16-19. It engaged federal, state, and local partners in a series of events and opportunities to demonstrate and assess federal emergency preparedness capabilities pertaining to a natural disaster. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted the operations based exercise. The scenario was a simulated earthquake impacting the central portion of the United States along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. It involved eight states: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, covering FEMA Regions IV to VII.

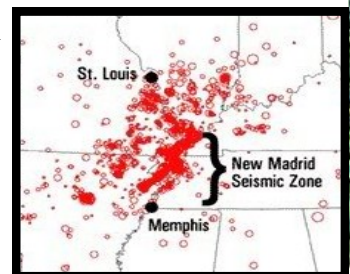
The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) objectives were to validate USDA's ability to determine the impacts of a catastrophic earthquake on USDA operations, effectively manage the Departmental multi-agency response, support mass care for the general population and implement recovery process.

USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) objectives included accounting for all personnel and facilities in the affected areas and supporting the National Response Framework. APHIS Emergency Operations Center was fully engaged during the exercise. It contained employees from divisions within APHIS, subject matter experts from the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs, the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition, and emergency responders from Department of Homeland Security and North Carolina.

The NAHERC Coordinator's role in the exercise was to assess the number of NAHERC members available to deploy in the event that activation was required. An e-mail was sent to all the NAHERC members just prior to the exercise. Two hundred and one NAHERC members replied indicating they were immediately available if assistance was needed; one hundred and twenty eight were Veterinary Medical Officers and seventy three were Animal Health Technicians. The NAHERC Coordinator was on hand to respond to any request for assistance from APHIS, Animal Care or the States involved in the exercise.

The last major activity along this fault line occurred from December 1811 to February 1812, with aftershocks occurring in 1813. Because this region was sparsely populated at the time, casualties were light. The region around the Mississippi River has grown significantly over the past 200 years. In the event of a real earthquake along this fault line, a significant response would be needed to assist in the recovery of the area.

The NLE 2011 provided a means to test capabilities and reveal areas that require improvement.



# Convention Update

Thomas Cunningham, the NAHERC Coordinator, Demetria Jones, NAHERC Senior Analyst, and Daisy M. Witherspoon, Project Lead, attended the CVC East Convention at National Harbor, Washington, DC. The NAHERC team had the pleasure of meeting and talking with many of the attendees which included practice owners, associate veterinarians, animal health technicians, practice managers, receptionists, students and family members of conference attendees; some of whom are NAHERC members. The team shared the NAHERC story, informing many and reminding others of the opportunity to make a difference in the event of an animal health emergency. These recruiting events allow the NAHERC team to attract and encourage more and more veterinarians and animal health technicians to join NAHERC. It allows USDA, to increase the number of talented veterinarians and technicians in the program ensuring all members have the ability to accept or decline a request for deployment. We are excited to continue this effort at conventions and conferences in the future. We'll announce our location and booth number well in advance of the event. We encourage you to visit our booth and bring your colleagues and friends.

Pictured below, from left to right: (1) Daisy sharing the enrollment and deployment process with Martin Newcomb. (2) Tom and Demetria intently listening to questions from a conference attendee regarding pay and benefits for NAHERC comb. (3) Demetria informing Fred Garrison about the NAHERC program. (4) Daisy and Demetria enjoying a moment of relaxation when there was a break in traffic within the exhibit hall.



# NAHERC Training

The NAHERC training website no longer requires you to enter a NAHERC member number to receive a completion certificate. Additionally, the training site is now open to all not just NAHERC members. This training is required for NAHERC members, but it is useful to all so anyone may take the courses. Training website: <https://naherc.sws.iastate.edu/>

# Missed an Issue?

This issue marks one year of the NAHERC Quarterly. We hope all of you have found our articles enlightening. Volume I of the NAHERC Quarterly can be found on the FAD PreP website we covered last issue ([https://fadprep.lmi.org/\\_layouts/FBA/USDA/LOGIN/login.aspx](https://fadprep.lmi.org/_layouts/FBA/USDA/LOGIN/login.aspx)), on the NAHERC home page: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/emergency\\_management/naherc.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/naherc.shtml) or by simply clicking on the image below. If you are a new NAHERC member and have not seen our past issues, you now have the opportunity to catch up on back issues of the newsletter.



