



**Alaska Flooding
August 2013
ESF #11 After Action Report (AAR)**



Incident Summary

From mid-May to mid-June 2013 Yukon River flooding resulted in extensive property damage and sheltering and/or relocation of residents and animals in Galena, AK. USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) coordinated with AK State agencies and FEMA to meet congregate feeding needs in Galena with USDA Foods. The State of Alaska and FEMA requested assistance in assessing near and long term household pet and sled dog resource needs in AK. The RX ESF #11 Coordinator received an activation mission assignment on August 13 and deployed to the FEMA RX Joint Field Office in Anchorage, AK on August 14. The ESF #11 Coordinator requested an APHIS animal subject-matter-expert (SME) who deployed to Anchorage, AK on August 15. FEMA and the state requested a National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) SME who arrived August 15. The SMEs completed a four day on site assessment looking at household pet and sled dog issues in Galena AK which included meetings with residents, community leaders, the sled dog community and animal advocates. The SMEs utilized data collected during the site visit to write a report of recommendations to be shared with State and FEMA. Recommendations included 1) consistent veterinary care for pets and sled dogs 2) feeding program for pets and sled dogs 3) winter housing for families with pets 4) transportation of pets from Fairbanks to Galena and 5) outdoor housing for pets and sled dogs. The ESF #11 Coordinator and SME's coordinated with AK State Homeland Security/Emergency Management, AK State Veterinarian's office, Municipality of Anchorage, several AK borough representatives, and NGO's regarding overall animal emergency response planning in Alaska. The ESF #11 Coordinator and AK State Emergency Management produced a summary of current resources, anticipated needs, and long term considerations for pets in Galena and Fairbanks for State and FEMA to use in overall animal emergency response planning. No unmet needs were identified for other components of ESF #11 to include food safety, animal and plant diseases/pests, or natural, cultural, historic properties. ESF #11 demobilized from the AK JFO August 20.

Lessons Learned

What Went Well

- 1) Deployment of ESF #11 resources occurred in a timely manner. ESF #11 submitted Resource Request, dispatch created the incident in ROSS, and employees attached to the incident received Resource Orders prior to deploying.
- 2) APHIS and NARSC subject-matter-experts worked cooperatively and professionally during the Galena site visit and completed a thorough assessment providing useful information to State and FEMA.
- 3) ESF #11 Coordinator had good access and interaction with AK State Mass Care Lead in the FEMA Joint Field Office and had good communication with the SME's in Galena. Verizon Hot-Spot, for internet communication, worked well and provided Internet access at all times in Alaska.

Challenges/Areas for Improvement

- 1) Galena site visit could have been completed in two days, rather than four, providing more time for the SMEs to interact with AK State Mass Care Lead and ESF #11 Coordinator in the JFO.
- 2) Coordination with the ESF #11 National Coordinator.
- 3) Agency participation on the daily ESF #11 Coordination call was minimal - likely influenced by the weekend timing and time zone of the incident.