



**4080DR Hurricane Isaac  
Louisiana, Sept. 2012  
ESF 11 After Action Report  
(AAR)**



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**Incident Summary**

The ESF-11 Coordinator in FEMA Region VI received an Operations Order from FEMA on August 26, 2012, for Tropical Storm Isaac to begin staffing the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Denton, TX on Monday, August 27, 2012. ESF-11 was activated at the RRCC for four days and was transitioned to the Baton Rouge Initial Operating facility on Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> by FEMA Operations. ESF-11 subsequently demobilized from the incident on September 5, 2012. During the activation, ESF-11 coordinated several agricultural and mass care related issues. Among these issues were:

- Information and situational awareness concerning USDA and/or State quarantines in certain Parishes for restricted movement of woody and/or plant materials.
- Technical assistance regarding requests for federal assistance with removal of livestock carcasses in Plaquemines Parish.
- Numerous requests regarding the State requested Disaster Supplemental Food Assistance Program (Disaster Food Stamps)
- Coordination of a State request (via Action Request Form) for various food commodities that would subsequently be distributed by the network of Food Banks in Louisiana.
- Guidance and information to the State/Federal/NGO Feeding Task Force concerning USDA disaster food assistance & integration of the appropriate State agencies to that group.
- Information to Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry regarding FEMA reimbursement for pet evacuation and sheltering expenses.
- Coordinated with FEMA Individual Assistance and USDA Rural Development (RD) for a USDA RD representative to staff the Disaster Recovery Center in New Orleans.

**Lessons Learned**

**Things that worked well:**

- 1) The deployment protocols worked very well, including checklists and ROSS Dispatch that allowed us to timely deploy the necessary resources. Additionally, administrative support for ESF-11 was exceptional that included support from the APHIS hub at Ft. Collins and Headquarters (over a holiday weekend).
- 2) The Disaster Coordinator for Food and Nutrition Service, Southwest Region, was extremely helpful to address questions concerning USDA food assistance, especially the State request to implement DSNAP.

- 3) Summarizing the USDA APHIS PPQ regulations pertaining to Citrus Greening and Imported Fire Ants in the impact zone (in coordination with SPHD and State Agriculture) was helpful to FEMA and debris removal contractors.

**Things that could use improvement:**

- 1) An FNS training session at a spring 2013 RISC meeting for FEMA and State EM leadership would be extremely helpful.
- 2) FEMA to develop a Fact Sheet or similar written guidance to States regarding federal assistance for removal and disposal of animal carcasses resulting from a natural disaster.