



**Cascadia Rising Capstone  
Functional Exercise  
FEMA NRCC, DC  
June 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
ESF #11 After Action Report  
(AAR)**



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**Exercise Summary**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) conducted an exercise on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 concurrently with FEMA Region 10 (RX). The scenario was a magnitude 9.0 earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Multiple aftershocks included a magnitude 7.1 aftershock on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Open source estimates indicated approximately 7 million people affected; with 1 million displaced, 25,000 injured, and 13,000 potential fatalities. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) estimated 2.5 million survivors needing life-sustaining resources. Continued aftershocks may cause tsunamis north of Conception, CA. Aftershocks may further damage initially impacted critical infrastructure.

USDA was activated to the NRCC through notification of the Emergency Support Function #11 (ESF #11) National Coordinator. USDA was also activated through the ESF #11 Coordinator in FEMA RX. The National Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) East at Camp Murray, Washington and National IMAT West at the Initial Operating Facility (IOF) at Oregon State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) were also activated.

FEMA Objectives for the exercise were to demonstrate the ability to provide:

- Operational Communications
- Public Health and Medical Services
- Mass Care Services
- Situational Assessment
- Critical Transportation
- Operational Coordination

ESF #11 Exercise Goals included:

1. Test the ability to provide effective coordination of ESF #11 between personnel located at the state emergency operations centers; the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC); and the NRCC.
2. Enhance understanding of the logistics required to move animal commodities into and within the disaster affected area during a catastrophic incident
3. Improve awareness within the emergency management community of anticipated animal issues during a catastrophic incident
4. Explore “outside the box” options for response to animal needs in a catastrophic incident
5. Enhance understanding of ESF #11 resource capabilities through discussion during exercise downtime to better leverage capabilities to be more responsive to animal needs in future disasters

## Lessons Learned

### Successful

1. Maintained communications between ESF #11 at the NRCC and RRCC and with partners such as ESF #6 and other implementing partners.
2. Access to Web EOC at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) EOC in Riverdale for support to the exercise participants.
3. Daily updates of situational reports (SitReps) from NRCC and RRCC ESF #11 stakeholders
4. Excellent coordination between ESF #11 and Animal Task Force and Partner Non-Governmental Organization's (NGO's)
5. Excellent coordination between the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and ESF #11 on food storage warehouse availability and responding to a request for Infant Formula/Baby Food.
6. Communicating with the ESF #11 Coordinator from FEMA RX to support the NRCC situational awareness to support real-time information flow and reduce delays.

### Challenges/Areas for Improvement

1. Ensure NRCC ESF #11 Desk Officers have been notified ahead of time to avoid no show.
2. Support for internet connectivity of NRCC federal and NGO partners
3. Web EOC access level for desk officers needs improvement
4. Unscheduled meetings at the NRCC create conflicts with scheduled meetings
5. FEMA needs to provide more desk space and chairs for our Subject Matter Experts (SME's) at the NRCC
6. Consider ESF #11 program emergency communication equipment
7. Consider including state partners on ESF #11 Coordination call as done during ESF #11 activations in the regions as appropriate.
8. A review of expectations of the ESF #11 program from FEMA, USDA Management, state partners, and ESF #11 staff may be useful.
9. Provide the source for ESF #11 injects during level 1 exercise
10. Improve response to a state request directly to the NRCC