



**Cascadia Rising Exercise
Washington/Oregon States
Emergency Support Function
(ESF) #11
Exercise After Action Report (AAR)**



Incident Summary

At 1100 EDT on June 7, 2016 a 9.0 magnitude earthquake occurred off the Pacific Northwest coast resulting in a complete rupture of the 700-mile Cascadia Subduction Zone fault line and ground-shaking for five minutes. ESF #11 Coordinator in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 (RX) was notified via the Emergency Notification System. The ESF #11 Coordinator, two Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) desk officers and two Western Region Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) staff deployed to the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) June 7, 2016.

ESF #11 Coordinator followed the activation checklist including notification to the program manager, APHIS dispatch, state contacts, ESF #11 partner agency contacts, and FEMA RX federal partners. ESF #11 stakeholders were notified of the activation and encouraged to communicate unmet needs or program impacts. Period of limited or no communication occurred hindering communication efforts. ESF #11 Coordinator requested resources via the Resource Request Workbook and APHIS dispatch provided resource orders to all resources requested by the ESF #11 Coordinator.

ESF #11 participated in Mass Care, Feeding and Animal Task Force meetings with headquarters, other ESF's, states, and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners. Using the projected survivor numbers needing emergency food, USDA/FNS provided a USDA Food Inventory to the Feeding Task Force and prepared to assist in planning the movement of food to staging bases in cooperation with State Distributing Agencies following established protocols. FNS worked with appropriate state agencies to prepare for D-SNAP (Disaster Supplemental Assistance Program) later in the response.

ESF #11 participated in Animal Task Force calls with Washington (WA) State Department of Agriculture, APHIS Animal Care, and NGOs as well as staff from the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) to address animal search and rescue, feeding, transport and sheltering issues. Plans for movement of human and animal survivors out of the impact zone to other areas resulted in Emergency Declarations for 23 states outside the Pacific Northwest. This included emergency assistance to provide assistance with search and rescue, emergency evacuations, and mass care and shelter operations as requested by the states of Oregon and Washington and coordinated through FEMA.

Lessons Learned

Successful

- FNS staff deployed to the RRCC to engage directly with ESF #6, complete the USDA Food Inventories request, coordinate with FNS Headquarters, address resource requests from the NRCC, and provide timely and thorough updates to FEMA and the ESF #11 Coordinator.
- ESF #11 resource ordering was accomplished through APHIS Dispatch and Resource Orders were received by APHIS employees at the RRCC consistent with the ESF #11 activation checklist.
- ESF #11 Desk Officers received experience monitoring WebEOC for resource requests and participated in Mass Care Task Force and Animal Task Force calls and meetings.

Challenges/Areas for Improvement

- FNS ability to move USDA Foods to staging bases for congregate feeding and preparation for D-SNAP was hindered by the lack of exercise participation by RX state agencies responsible for administering FNS programs including distributing agencies.
- Review and ensure redundant communication channels to ensure connectivity during periods of Information Technology (IT) loss in the RRCC.
- Provide summary of federal/NGO animal emergency response resources to FEMA RX state animal health agencies.