



**Louisiana Severe Storms & Flooding  
May 2016  
ESF #11 After Action Report (AAR)**



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**Incident Summary**

In March 2016, severe storms and flooding impacted the entire State of Louisiana, some areas received upwards of 20 inches of rain in a very short time. Estimates of over 2,000 homes were evacuated and most of these homes suffered severe flooding impacts. A major Presidential Declaration for both Individual and Public Assistance was declared in twenty-three Parishes with more Parishes to be added as damage assessments are completed.

FEMA Region VI activated USDA ESF #11 on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to coordinate response efforts at the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Baton Rouge, LA. ESF #11 initial response actions included the Food and Nutrition Service Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, USDA/State quarantined areas for Emerald Ash Borer and coordination with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry for small and large animal response operations.

In addition to coordinating the ESF #11 response activities, the ESF #11 Coordinator worked to ensure all components of Ag and Natural Resources support were integrated with State efforts and unmet needs. In addition, the Federal Coordinating Officer asked the ESF #11 Coordinator for a briefing and information on all USDA disaster programs, many of which are addressed under the National Disaster Recovery Framework and implemented thru USDA Recovery Support Functions. An additional task assigned to ESF #11 by the FEMA Operations Section Chief was to coordinate a State inquiry concerning mosquito abatement. Incident and Mission Assignment Information

**Major Tasks Completed:**

- Initial coordination of the State inquiry for mosquito abatement. The ESF #11 Coordination determined USDA ESF #11 capabilities, which were determined as aerial coverage of 4 – 5 square miles per day, and provided that information to FEMA and State officials. ESF #11 connected the State officials to the FEMA Public Assistance and the Environmental Historic Preservation Advisor for further consideration and consultation.
- Coordination of USDA/State quarantines in three northern Louisiana Parishes. The ESF #11 Coordinator provided FEMA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Debris Team with information pertaining to the Emerald Ash Borer Federal/State quarantines in the Louisiana Parishes of Webster, Bossier and Claiborne in northern Louisiana.
- Coordination with Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). The close working relationship with LDAF continued during this deployment which allowed for real-time situational awareness concerning animal emergency response issues. LDAF had no shortfalls or unmet needs during the activation and kept ESF #11 updated on animal response issues ongoing in the Parishes.
- Provided information to the FEMA and State Coordinating Officers on USDA recovery programs. The ESF #11 Coordinator obtained information on numerous USDA recovery programs and provided those materials and a briefing to the two Coordinating Officers. The USDA agencies of Farm Service Agency, Rural Development and Natural Resource Conservation Services provided a USDA package that was forwarded to the thirteen FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers. The ESF #11 Coordinator enlisted assistance from the FEMA CORPS to provide these materials as additional DRC's become operational.

## Lessons Learned

### Successful

- Coordination with ESF #11 stakeholders including State agencies, APHIS Programs, ESF #11 partner agencies and USDA State Emergency Board members.
- Transition from ESF #11 response to USDA recovery programs. FEMA and State Emergency Management leadership's initial questions mostly involved USDA recovery programs. Transition with the USDA Recovery Coordinator worked well.
- Prior planning with State partners paid off. Animal carcass removal/disposal issues have been a priority topic during previous disasters of this type where there may be large number of livestock mortalities resulting from the disaster. Prior planning with State partners and Emergency Management officials provided key information that was included in local Plans concerning animal carcass removal and disposal.

### Challenges/Areas for Improvement

- While the transition from ESF #11 response to USDA recovery worked well, an information package explaining the response and recovery programs would be helpful for FEMA and State leadership. This package could be provided to these officials upon activation of ESF #11, and would address the array of questions concerning USDA recovery we have received during the last two activations of ESF #11 in Region VI.
- ESF #11 Coordinator Daily Report distribution is consistent and successful – getting the report to the FEMA RVI partners and stakeholders and all APHIS employees attached to the incident. However the report was not consistently distributed by HQ staff to all the HQ partners and stakeholders resulting in lack of visibility of the incident and field activities by leadership.