



**New Mexico Tornado  
New Mexico Department of  
Agriculture & USDA/APHIS ESF #11  
FEMA Regions VI & IX  
Table Top Exercise (TTX)  
November 20, 2013  
After Action Report (AAR)**

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**EXERCISE SUMMARY**

On November 20, 2013 the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and ESF #11 Coordinators from FEMA Regions VI & IX conducted a Table Top Exercise (TTX) for the purpose of utilizing the State's Annex to the *All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan* and Livestock Board's *Livestock Disease Response Plan* in response to a tornado scenario event. The scenario and resulting resource impacts were based upon actual events and experiences that took place earlier this year in Oklahoma. APHIS ESF #11 Coordinators developed and facilitated the exercise at the request of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's state ESF #11 Coordinator to assist him in raising awareness of the importance of animal emergency preparedness.

One of the many functions and goals of an exercise is to bring together agencies and organizations in a risk-free environment to identify and practice the roles and responsibilities described in their respective plans before an event occurs. The exercise had 33 players participating representing over a dozen agencies and organizations, including DOI and APHIS (PPQ, VS, AC, and WS). The Exercise Planning Team identified four (4) Core Capabilities and three (3) Incident Action Plan (IAP) products (listed below) to prepare and evaluate during the five hour exercise.

**CORE CAPABILITIES**

- 1. Situational Assessment** – Provide all decision makers with the decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response.
- 2. Operational Coordination** - Establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates all critical stakeholders and supports the execution of core capabilities.
- 3. Mass Care (Animals)** – Provide life-sustaining services to the affected population with a focus on hydration, feeding, and sheltering to those who have the most need, as well as support for reunifying families.
- 4. Critical Transportation** - Provide transportation (including infrastructure access and accessible transportation services) for response priority objectives, including the evacuation of people and animals, and the delivery of vital response personnel, equipment, and services into the affected area.

**ICS Form Objectives**

- 1.** ICS 202 - Incident Objectives.
- 2.** ICS 207 – Organizational Chart.
- 3.** ICS 215 – Resource Planning Worksheet.

A hot-wash briefing with all the participants was conducted immediately after the exercise with the following key issues observed as successful and recommendations for future exercises. An accompanying Improvement Plan to this AAR was prepared by the Exercise Planning Team/ Evaluators specifically for ESF #11 identified suggested recommendations, which agency/person is responsible to provide the recommendations and when the recommendations are expected to be completed.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### **Successful:**

- (1) The Unified Command group identified organizing by sections (e.g., Planning, Ops, etc.) was productive.
- (2) The Operations Section commented that participation by all the players was a success.
- (3) The Planning Section and NM DHSEM stated that the functionality and quickness of forming groups/sections, and meeting in person all contributed to a successful event.
- (4) Other notable observations/lessons learned included how much paperwork is involved, having knowledgeable Section Chiefs is critical.
- (5) Knowledge of ESF #11 capabilities, adaptability and NIMS.

### **Challenges/Areas for Improvement:**

- (1) More injects to keep all the players engaged throughout the exercise would be beneficial.
- (2) Provide examples of a complete IAP for future reference.
- (3) The exercise should schedule time for frequent updates and instructions and periodic “time outs” to brief on progress (e.g. negotiating the Planning “P” process)
- (4) Invite additional State agencies that would have a substantive role in the response to participate. (e.g. NM Game and Fish, State Forestry for ICS expertise, etc.)
- (5) Future exercises should consider injects to engage agencies and organizations for transportation and sheltering.
- (6) Include time for the preparation of an ICS 204 (Work Assignment List) from the development of the ICS 215. Also provide time to show the changes in the organizational structure by preparing updated ICS 215s as the exercise develops. Players also expressed the need for additional ICS training.