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# NVAP Reference Guide: National Animal Health Emergency Management System

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A Federal-, State-, and industry-coordinated emergency response system established in 1996, the National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS) is an integrated system for dealing with animal health incidents in the United States, such as the incursion of a foreign animal disease or a natural disaster. It encompasses the four tenets of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. One cornerstone of the NAHEMS is the response guidelines series. The NAHEMS Guidelines are designed for use by official response personnel in the event of a major animal health emergency. They provide information that may be integrated into the preparedness plans of other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, and additional groups involved in animal health emergency management activities.

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