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AVMA Disaster Training Core Competencies #2

Knowledge Of One's Expected Role(s) In Organizational And Community Response Plans


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0.6.10 Veterinary Emergency Response Group Education (VERGE) Seminar Series
21 Sep 2023

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VETERINARIAN DISASTER RESPONDER ENTRY LEVEL CORE COMPETENCIES (Awareness Level Training 2021)

 **AVMA**
American Veterinary Medical Association

- 1.0 Skills Needed For Personal And Family Preparedness
- 2.0 Knowledge Of One's Expected Role(s) In Organizational And Community Response Plans
- 3.0 Situational Awareness Of, And Solutions To, Health Concerns Surrounding A Disaster Or Animal Health Emergency
- 4.0 Potential Impacts Of Disasters And Animal Health Emergencies On Resources
- 5.0 Biosecurity And Animal Welfare Principles
- 6.0 Reporting And Responding To Zoonotic, Transboundary, And Foreign Animal Diseases
- 7.0 Humane Euthanasia/Depopulation And Disposal Techniques
- 8.0 Has Completed Required FEMA Online Courses

Adapted from: www.avma.org/samuel/rlaw/2021-07/ver-core-competencies-ver-disaster-entry-level-2021.pdf

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VETERINARIAN DISASTER RESPONDER ENTRY LEVEL CORE COMPETENCIES (Awareness Level Training 2021)

2.0 DEMONSTRATES KNOWLEDGE OF ONE'S EXPECTED ROLE(S) IN ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANS ACTIVATED DURING A DISASTER OR ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY [Include license reciprocity, liability, NO self deployment]

- 2.1 Able to explain formal opportunities and the need for trained veterinarian disaster responders at the local, state, and national level *[AVMA has on-demand webinars to expand]*
- 2.2 Able to explain the veterinarian's role within the incident management hierarchy and chain of command established in a disaster or animal health emergency *[IS 100, 200, 700 partly fulfills this competency]*
- 2.3 Able to explain mechanisms for reporting actual/potential health threats through chain of command/authority established in a disaster or animal health emergency *[IS 100, 200, 700 partly fulfills this competency]*
- 2.4 Able to explain why ongoing professional interdisciplinary relationships are important for One Health collaborations with each of the following: local emergency manager, local/state veterinary response organization, local/state public health office, state public health veterinarian, state Chief Animal Health Official/State Veterinarian, state extension service, Federal Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) *[include large and small disasters, local DVM engagement advantages]*
- 2.5 Able to explain roles of Community Animal Response Teams (CARTs) and State Animal/Agricultural Response Teams (SARTs)

Adapted from: www.avma.org/samuel/rlaw/2021-07/ver-core-competencies-ver-disaster-entry-level-2021.pdf

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- 2.1 Explain formal opportunities and the need for trained veterinarian disaster responders
- 2.2 Explain the veterinarian's role within the incident management hierarchy and chain of command
- 2.3 Explain mechanisms for reporting actual and potential health threats through the chain of command/authority
- 2.4 Explain why ongoing professional interdisciplinary relationships are important for One Health collaborations
- 2.5 Explain roles of Community Animal Response Teams (CARTs) and State Animal/Agricultural Response Teams (SARTs)

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**Formal Opportunities And The Need For Trained
Veterinarian Disaster Responders**

- **Before Event**
 - *Emergency Plans for YOU (family, clinic)*
 - *Educating clients about preparedness*
 - *Working with local EM professionals on creating/improving disaster plans*
- **During and After Event**
 - *Primary need is **SHELTERING** animals, owned, lost, stray*
 - *Rescue, Liypad, Evacuation-Stand Alone/Collocated/Cohabitation*
 - *Veterinary care and management (implies previous plans and SOPs)*
 - *Private practitioners previously identified as "sister clinics" & county/state animal resources*

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**Functional Areas
Rescue Shelter**

Animals of unknown origin,
ownership, & history rescued
from a disaster site

- R = Registration**
- T = Treatment**
- S = Shelter**
- I = Isolation?**
- D = Decontam'n**

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**Functional Areas
Evacuation Shelter**

Animals of known origin and
ownership evacuating from a
disaster site
Standalone/Collocated/
Cohabited

- R = Registration**
- T = Treatment?**
- S = Shelter**
- I = Isolation**
- D = Decontam'n**

Animals identified as needing medical
treatment or isolation go to
cooperating medical facility (private
DVM clinic), so have minimal
Treatment and likely no Iso or Decon

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**Functional Areas
Liypad Shelter**

Temporary staging area for rescued
animals waiting transport to a
full Rescue Shelter. Treatment
may not be available, or
may be first aid
&/or euthanization.

- R = Registration**
- T = Treatment?**
- S = Shelter**
- I = Isolation**
- D = Decontam'n**

Formal Opportunities And The Need For Trained Veterinarian Disaster Responders

- **Before Event**
 - **Emergency Plans for YOU (family, clinic)**
 - **Educating clients about preparedness**
 - **Working with local EM professionals on creating/improving disaster plans**
- **During and After Event**
 - **Primary need is SHELTERING animals, owned, lost, stray**
 - Rescue, triage, Evacuation/Stand Alone/Collocated/Conhabitation
 - Veterinary care and management (implies previous plans and SOPs)
 - Private practitioners previously identified as county/state animal resources
 - **Secondary need is to SUPPORT animal rescuers**
 - Provide real time health exams, tranquilization, emergency first aid
 - **Tertiary need is in local/state Emergency Operations Center**
 - Planning, Operations are two most likely areas

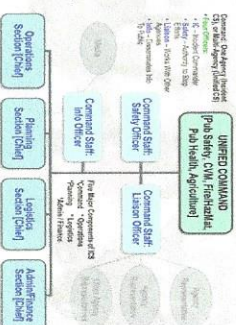


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Brief Introduction: Incident Command

- Developed by Fire professionals to improve planning and response by establishing an organizational structure
- Five major ICS functions:
 - **INCIDENT COMMAND:** Sets objectives, strategies, and priorities. Has overall responsibility for the incident.
 - **OPERATIONS:** Conducts operations for incident objectives. Establishes tactics, directs all operational resources.
 - **PLANNING:** Supports planning process by tracking resources, collecting/analyzing info, and documentation.
 - **LOGISTICS:** Provides resources & services to support objectives.
 - **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:** Monitors & provides accounting, procurement, time recording, and cost analyses.



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Brief Introduction: Incident Command

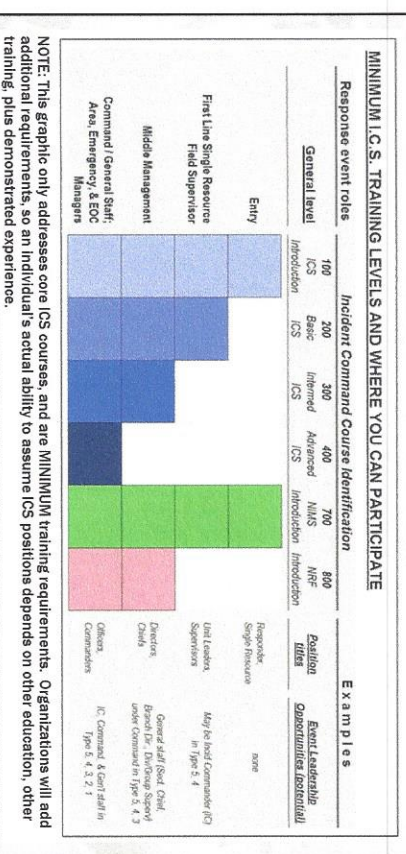
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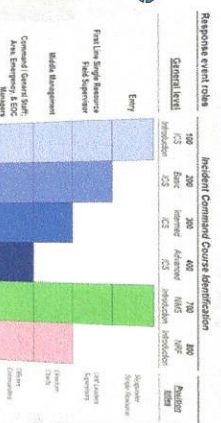
ICS Role Depends on Training & Experience



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Advantages In Formally Being Part of a Response

- IF you are in your community response plan you can be prioritized in getting resources
- Power, water, fuel, site access
- IF you participate in a declared response as a resource you can get reimbursement for expenses
- IF you participate in a declared response you can gain state or federal medical and liability insurance
- IF you go out-of-state for a formal deployment most states' disaster declaration establishes emergency reciprocity for veterinary licenses

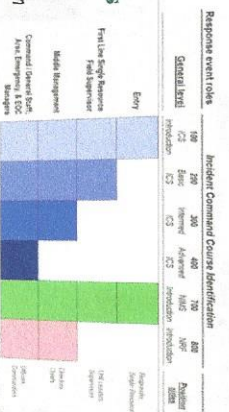


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Having Said That...

- Veterinarians and Vet Techs bring special useful skills & knowledge to an event
- Could be slotted into a support position for Middle Mgt or General Staff within Operations or Planning (Group Supervisor support for Sheltering within the Operations Section)
- In 2001, I had no ICS training, nonetheless, I was put in charge of Epidemiology (tracking, testing, etc.) for a potential FMD outbreak in NC.
- That put me - technically - as a Branch Director or Division Supervisor, immediately under the Ops Section Chief.
- But we never gave each other Titles, so if you got the job done, it didn't matter.



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Advantages In Formally Being Part of a Response

- Most importantly, you can be part of a coordinated and efficient and safe response.
- You can participate without becoming the bane of ICS managers: The Lone World self-mobilizing responder.
- NEVER SELF MOBILIZE
- You won't have information or support, will get in the way, and will suck up resources, rather than being a resource



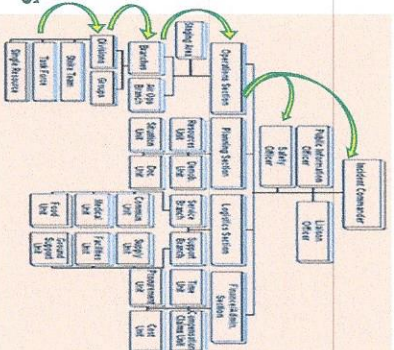
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Mechanisms for Reporting

- Unity of Command – Each individual only reports to one person
- Decreases both confusion & conflicts; allows leaders to efficiently direct & communicate
- Wherever you are in the ICS Structure, you report issues to your direct superior
 - They either deal with the issue, or move it up to their superior, etc., etc.
- At points there will be official ICS reporting forms &/or protocols

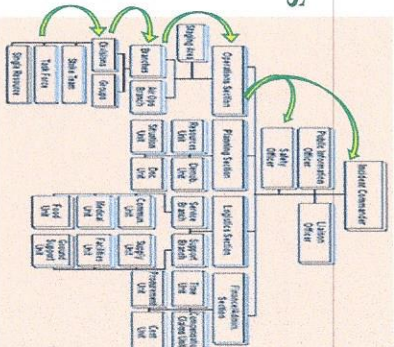


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Mechanisms for Reporting

- At points there will be official ICS reporting forms &/or protocols
- Common errors 1. Vets and MDs think their concerns warrant going "to the top" at start command
 - Used to being only link in the chain of command
- Common errors 2. Using the wrong form, or the wrong communications protocol, gets the message lost
 - Ex: Different web-based systems for requesting resources vs sending messages



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Professional Interdisciplinary Relationships Are Important: WHY

- For Operational Efficiency: Response is organized via ICS principles to establish flexible/scalable structures so multiple planners, responders, and managers may operate.
 - It is evident that those planners, responders, and managers would be well-served to have met each other beforehand.
- For One Health Efficacy: The more we understand EM and ICS, and the more they understand animal-related issues, the better will be our planning and responses.
- Whether a veterinarian formally enters a planning/response effort or not, it still makes sense to get to know some of the professionals who will affect a clinic and its clients.
 - Whether the event is a full-blown regional disaster, or an animal boarding case, or a highway incident involving animals, we will be involved, and so too, will other professionals.

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Professional Interdisciplinary Relationships Are Important: WHO

- Local Fire Officials
 - Review your home and clinic, understand what is at a site
- Local Emergency Manager
 - Leads local planning efforts and establishes MOU/MOA for becoming a county resource and getting remuneration
- Local Public Health Leader
 - Decisions on dog bites and rabies, involved with sheltering planning
- Local Coop. Extension
 - Have own disaster training and plans, often involved in planning large animal sheltering and resource access
- State/Federal Animal Health Officials
 - State Vet has authority over all animal health and welfare issues
 - Federal Area Vet in Charge is authority for federal disease & animal movement
 - State Public Health Vet has final say on establishing zoonotic disease control

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★ Community Animal Response Teams (CART) & State Animal/Agric. Response Teams (SART)

- SART program started in North Carolina in 1999. CARTs started a year or two later.
- Most CART & SART organizations have *MOU/MOA status in their state animal-related emergency/disaster plans*
- SART is typically private-public partnership. Public aspect is usually through state Emergency Management. Private part can be any number of groups, businesses, or NGOs.
- CARTs are community based, most commonly at county level, but can be city-based or multi-county (regional) organizations.

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★ Community Animal Response Teams (CART) & State Animal/Agric. Response Teams (SART)

- CARTs usually have missions aligned to on-ground animal-related responses.
- CARTs vary. Some are basically a handful of lay volunteers with varying training willing to go help. Some have over 50 specifically trained volunteers and can mobilize equipment and resources
- Most CARTs are Small Animal Oriented, or ONLY Small Animal Capable. Some, however, work with Large Animals
- CADET – Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers that bring collapsible cages and non-perishable supplies to form basis for a small animal shelter
- Some CARTs in NC have personnel trained in Technical Large Animal Rescue &/or Swift Water Rescue

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★ Community Animal Response Teams (CART) & State Animal/Agric. Response Teams (SART)

- SARTs are usually state-level groups comprised from Coop Ext, Veterinary, and Animal-Interest Groups
- Usually more formally organized with funding through state and private sources – so bigger and more stable than many CARTs. But not always...
- Typically have a broader mandate: small animals, food animals, horses, and even some wildlife
- Typically have required ICS training and periodical CE training for members (Tech LA rescue, Adv Trauma course, special animal mgt, etc.)



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★ Community Animal Response Teams (CART) & State Animal/Agric. Response Teams (SART)

- CART and SART roles in disaster planning and response
- CARTs provide local personnel, supplies, and especially LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
 - Many shelters will be largely volunteers from local CARTs
 - CARTs can do a lot of leg work / grunt work in animal disasters
 - Often very active in supporting law enforcement in animal hoarding cases
- SARTs provide expertise, political leverage, and resources. Gov't and Private access to emergency funding sources is huge
- SARTs, being statewide, can pull personnel and equipment from one part of a state to assist in a different part of a state.
- Leverage example: NC SART directors are from Academia, EM, Dept Ag, County Gov't, NC VMA, Coop Ext, Law Enforcement, Farm Bureau/Credit, Cattlemen's Assoc, Dairy Producers' Assoc, Horse Council, Pork Council, Poultry Federation, and a few national corporations.

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★ Community Animal Response Teams (CART) & State Animal/Agric. Response Teams (SART)

- It is no surprise that SART/CART started in “Hurricane Alley” states (TX → FL → NC). Other states have not had the pressure from natural disasters to push the programs
 - Climate change & Human-Animal-Bond making ALL states aware of animal-related disaster needs
- To my knowledge no OFFICIAL CART/SART groups exist in Oregon. The state has most of the parts, though...
 - OVERT (Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team) is a veterinary response group, but is not a SART (just like the NC Vet Response Corps is not a SART either)
 - Multiple regional groups exist, not always calling themselves a CART, who do similar things, so it isn't that there is no animal support within this state

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