West, Texas Fertilizer Plant
Animal Issues Response
& Lessons Learned

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www.tahc.texas.gov
West, Texas Fertilizer Plant Response

- April 17th, 2013
- West Fertilizer Co. caught fire
- Ammonium nitrate
- Cause is still unknown

Graphic Courtesy of NPR
West Fertilizer Plant Response

Graphic courtesy of WFAA/940 Talk Radio
West Fertilizer Plant Response

- Approximately $57 million in damages
- Homes, nursing home, high school and middle school damaged
- App. 200 treated for injuries
- 15 deaths

www.tahc.state.tx.us
• 2.1 Richter scale - USGS
• felt 45m away
West Fertilizer Plant Response

ABC News

World News

Texas Flag
Texas Animal Health Commission
Response to West

• TAHC was deployed to West via request for support with animal issues through the Disaster District Committee
• Integrated into Incident Command Post to assist local animal personnel with coordination of animal issues
• TAHC personnel:
  • conducted animal needs assessments
  • assisted in relocation of livestock
  • assisted with carcass disposal
• Other affected premises were sheltered in place
Texas Response Structure:

- Local Response (on scene ICP to Local EOC)
- Mutual Aid (County to County)/Multi-agency Coordination Center
- Disaster District Committee
- State Operations Center
- Emergency Mgmt Assistance Compact
- FEMA
Lessons Learned

• Continue to quickly integrate into ICS, ensure local animal responders are included

• Continue to improve and implement communication protocols between response partners
Lessons Learned

- Continue to enhance responder PPE and credentials

- Continue to train responders to handle a variety of animal issues, including household pet issues
Lessons Learned

• Continue to improve response equipment

• Continue to refine decision making as to what resources should be deployed
Lessons Learned

- Continue to train personnel in all-hazard events
- Local planning is still the key to enhancing animal response

TAHC Local Planning Resources:

http://www.tahc.texas.gov/emergency/localplanning.html
Lessons Learned

Coordinate on scene activities (ICP)

Manage field activities

Needs assessments, response activities as needed
Future Efforts

• Teams and equipment ready for EMAC
• Will respond to other states for assistance upon request
## TAHC Mission Ready Response Packages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Response Team</td>
<td>Integrate into overall response to support and coordinate resolutions to animal needs</td>
<td>4 trucks, 1 command trailer, 1 portable corral, comms equipment, response cargo trailer, generator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Team Lead*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Field Response Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Inspectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Needs Assessment Team</td>
<td>Assess animal needs in affected areas, intervene if needed</td>
<td>2 trucks, TERT trailer, comms equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Inspectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Handling Unit</td>
<td>Address handling and movement of livestock in disasters.</td>
<td>3 trucks, 1 port corral, set of panels, livestock trailer, squeeze chute, comms equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Inspectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TAHC Mission Ready Response Packages

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horseback Response Team</td>
<td>Animal assessments in remote areas; specialized livestock handling when needed</td>
<td>2 trucks, livestock trailer, 2 Horses, Portable Panels, TERT trailer, comms equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Inspectors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 logs support person</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Command Staff (Type III)</td>
<td>Incident Commander Operations Section Chief</td>
<td>Resource Unit Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Section Chief</td>
<td>Public Information Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Safety Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liaison Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?

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