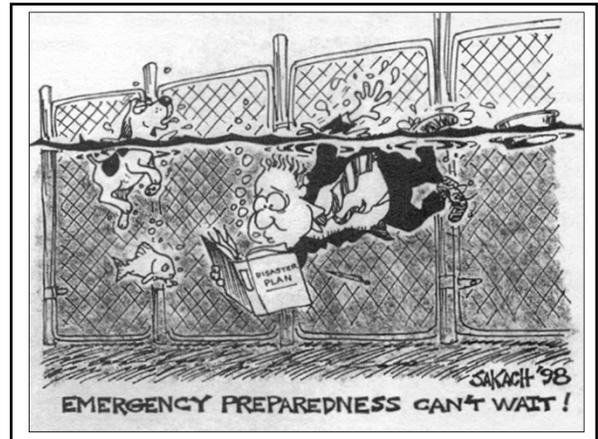


Just in Case: Essentials of Disaster Preparedness for The Veterinary Clinic

**Just In Case:
Essentials of Disaster Preparedness for
The Veterinary Clinic**

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Who am I??



Trade this --

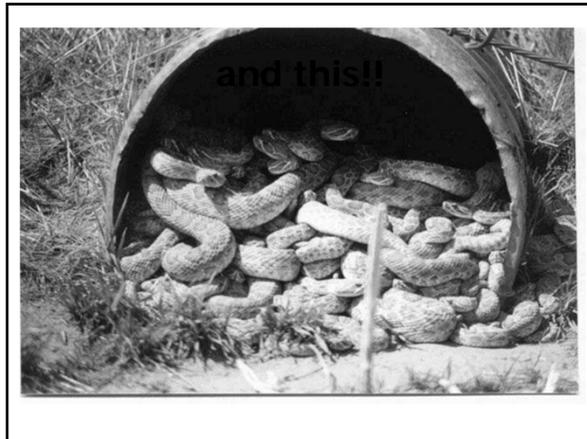


And this--



for this....





Overview

Preparing a Veterinary Practice For Disasters

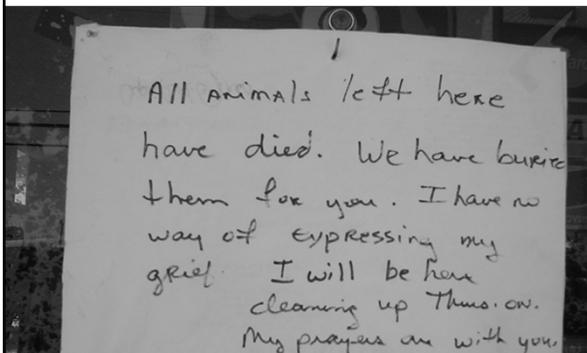
- Who Needs to Plan?
- Why Plan?
- Common Risks
- Evaluating Vulnerability
- The Plan
 - Mitigation,
 - Preparedness,
 - Response,
 - Recovery

Who Needs Plan?

- Animal shelters
- Boarding kennels
- Pet shops
- Horse stables
- Veterinary clinics & hospitals



Why Plan?



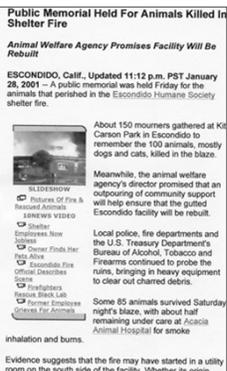
Common Risks

- Structure fire
- Hazardous materials
- Winds
- Flooding
- Earthquakes
- Wildfire
- Long-term power loss
- Winter storms – wind, cold, ice



Structure Fire

- Most Common Disaster
- Causes
 - Improper use of smoking materials
 - Electrical malfunctions
- Concerns
 - Pet stores & vet offices often located in shopping centers



Hazardous Materials

- Are you located near railroads, highways, airports or waterways?
- Near nuclear power plants or chemical plants?
- Contamination or explosion threat may prompt evacuation



Winds

- Causes
 - Tornadoes
 - Hurricanes
 - Blizzards
 - Severe thunderstorms
- Concerns
 - Weaken structure or tear off roof
 - Most damage = wind-borne debris or fallen trees



All Flooding

- Consider risks
- Consider potential for structural damage
 - Water damage
 - Damage from force of water
 - Floating debris
 - Contamination



River Flooding

- Flood plain for lakes, creeks or rivers?
- Check local government's flood plain maps
 - How much rainfall in specified period will cause how much rise in water level?
- Facility does **not** have to be near water to be in flood plain!
- Flooding may affect access

Flash Flooding & Mudslides

- Too much rain, too little time, nowhere for the water to go!
- Disruption of land makes areas more vulnerable
- Can happen in many places, not just in hilly areas
- Can be a severe and immediate threat
- Mitigation is key – there is very little time for response

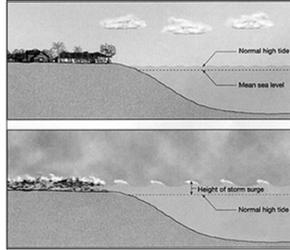
Storm Surge Flooding

- Accompanies hurricanes & tropical storms
- Waves can be more than 25 feet above normal
- Causes most damage in impacted areas



Storm Surge Maps

- Check local storm surge maps
- If facility is within storm surge area, plan for evacuation
- Make use of lead time to **LEAVE EARLY**



Earthquakes

- Faults located throughout U.S. (except South Florida)
- Ask local emergency management about potential



Wildfire

- Threat to facilities located near wooded land
- Access may be cut if roads shut down
- Water may be diverted for fire-fighting use only



Blizzards, Ice or Winter Storms

- Extreme low temperatures
- Utility outages
- Structural collapse
- Disruptions in transport for delivery of food & supplies



Remember... Check with local emergency management re risks in your area



Evaluate Facility's Vulnerability

- Structural integrity
- Structural design
- Safety features



Structural Integrity

- What is building constructed of?
- Withstand hurricane force winds?
- Support water/snow loading?
- Contains hazardous building materials? (e.g. asbestos)



Building Features

- Exposed, overloaded, or old electrical wiring?
- Large sliding glass doors, large windows or large number of windows?
 - Shatter during high winds or earthquakes?
 - Allow significant heat loss in cold weather?



Structural Design

- **Flooding**
 - On-site storage
 - Proper drainage
- **Hazardous Materials**
 - Type of kennels (indoor/outdoor) may determine appropriateness of sheltering on-site
- **Tornadoes**
 - Have "safe room" or area inside building
- **Evacuation Plan**
 - Exit doors & type/condition of locks

Safety Features

- Sufficient number of convenient fire extinguishers
- Trained employees
- Alert system & sprinklers (preferred)
- Smoking allowed?
 - Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors (batteries checked twice yearly)



Wildfires

- Safety zone around facility cleared of underbrush & trees
- Non-flammable roof – minimize fires caused by sparks



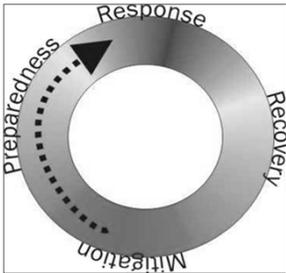
Other Safety Features

- Do security measures (locks) prevent quick evacuation of animals or personnel?
- Safety features in compliance with local building code?
- Request visit by local fire department



Develop a Plan

- Address four key areas
 - Mitigation
 - Preparation
 - Response
 - Recovery



MITIGATION

Making permanent changes to property or facility to eliminate or minimize impact of disasters

Facility Mitigation

- Protect windows and glass
 - Shutters in hurricane-force winds
 - Commercial hurricane shutters for large windows or sliding glass doors
 - Shutters in wildfire areas to prevent glass from heating
- Fire detection
 - Internal sprinkler system – connected directly to fire department or security company

Facility Mitigation

- Prevent lightning damage
 - Install lightning suppression system
 - Check with contractor for recommendations
- Use safe roofing materials
 - Non-flammable metal
 - Retrofit existing structure by strapping roof beams
- Provide for adequate drainage
 - Consult with professionals, especially if in floodplain or prone to flooding

PREPAREDNESS

Steps taken to prepare for specific emergencies

- ### Facility Preparation
- Establish priorities
 - #1 - staff & animals
 - #2 - equipment & office records
 - Plan for movable inventory
 - Move away from potential damage (trees, debris or flood)
 - Identify internal safe areas
 - Rooms without windows for tornadoes
 - Secure equipment internally, anchor furniture

Facility Preparation

- **Identify flammable materials**
 - Remove drapes & other flammable materials near glass doors or windows
- **Acquire or borrow necessary equipment**
 - Generators
 - Water pumps
 - Proper hook-ups
 - Trained employees



- ### Facility Preparation
- Be prepared for fires
 - Fire extinguishers
 - Hoses with lawn sprinklers
 - Inventory & store hazardous materials securely
 - Attach tanks securely
 - Turn off valves on hazardous material tanks
 - Label tanks
 - Lips on shelves
 - Store in closed cabinets with safety latches
 - Keep duplicate copies of inventory off-site

Facility Preparation

- **Contact local fire service**
 - Fire drill
 - Complimentary walk-through to check for other possible hazards
- **Identify facility's flood potential**
 - Flood or storm-surge maps
 - Can facility be cut off?

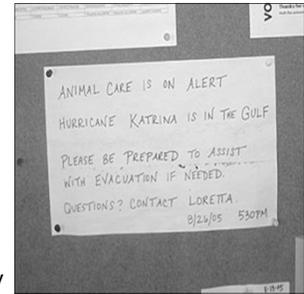


- ### Facility Preparation
- **Be part of local emergency system**
 - Part of overall community emergency plan
 - Emergency alert system as part of disaster plan
 - Radios placed strategically throughout building, with assigned personnel to monitor
 - Telephone tree or call-down system for larger facilities



Evacuation Planning

- **Devise Evacuation Plan**
 - Labor & equipment intensive
 - Requires extensive planning & practice
 - System to ensure all personnel & animals are accounted for before leaving facility



Evacuation Planning

- **DON'T WAIT!**
- If facility is in danger, evacuate early!!
- Predetermine safe location
- Have back-up facility
- Sister Hospital???



Evacuation Planning

- **Other considerations**
 - Staffing & vehicles
 - Caging - small animals
 - Loading of large animals
 - Animal feed & supplies
 - Pharmacy/drugs
 - Paperwork to ID animals
 - Notification of local authorities



Employee Preparation

- Encourage personal disaster plans
- Get input
 - Understand roles?
 - Identify key personnel & outline responsibilities
 - Make participation voluntary
 - Proper identification
- Training
 - CPR
 - First Aid (humans & animals)
 - Training on facility plan
 - Drills



Employee Preparation

- Encourage employee immunizations
 - Rabies
 - Tetanus
 - Hepatitis
- Identify responsibilities & tasks
 - Develop written, chronological list
- Staff assignments
 - Assign each area number of personnel required
 - Cross-training & alternates
 - Hazard awareness training

Employee Preparation

- Notification of employees
 - Keep all contact numbers:
 - Home phone
 - Cellular phone
 - Pager
 - Non-essential staff don't report to work
 - Pre-arrange meeting spot or have another "Plan B" in case phone lines are down



Administrative Preparation

- Staffing requirements outlined & updated
- Backup computer records
 - Evacuating? - take computer files
 - Keep additional electronic files off-site, & back up as well
- Secure non-computer records
 - Plastic bags
 - Marked boxes
 - Identify central location for inventory & storage




Administrative Preparation

- Check insurance
 - Adequate to cover ALL losses?
 - Wind vs. Flood
 - Do you have an inventory?
 - Photographs
 - Video footage
 - Keep duplicate off premises



RESPONSE

How organization reacts once disaster is imminent or has occurred

Response

- Comprehensive plan
- Organized
- Controlled
- Flexible



Employee Considerations

- Release non-essential personnel first
- Release second level of employees as soon as disaster preparation completed
- Release remaining employees in time to reach own shelter
- Critical staff may remain on-site if required & safe



Employee Considerations

- Plan for 24-hour operation
- Ensure frequent relief & breaks
- Cycle returning employees
- Use volunteers for routine tasks
- Stockpile supplies for humans
- Have written manual or plan for each employee



Equipment Needs

- Generator
 - Adequately powered
 - Safe operation
 - Professionally wire building if permanent
 - Never hook temporary generators into building's wiring
 - Run appliances & equipment directly off generator
 - Never place inside enclosed buildings



Whole Hospital Generators

- Be sure to have professionally wired
- Consider fuel source
- Run periodically
- Automatic is best



Equipment Needs

- Water
 - Community or well water may be contaminated
 - Stockpile water or plan to have it brought in
- Animal caging
 - Store caging or portable corrals on-site or nearby



RECOVERY

Actions taken
(both short- and long-term)
to return to "normal"
operations

Obstacles to Recovery

- Facility impacted
- Staffing minimized
- Disrupted community – continued burden
- “Mental Health” of staff
- Personal issues of staff



Recovery Steps

- Assessment of damage
- Evaluation of needs
- Recovery of staff & administration
- Rebuilding facility



Damage & Needs Assessments

- ID trained staff to evaluate impact on facility
 - Training takes place at preparedness phase
- Check on animals & on-site staff
 - Render appropriate first aid
 - Get vet or medical treatment



Assessments

- Extent of damage?
 - Can building be used?
 - Immediate dangers?
 - Water & electric?
- Immediate steps to minimize further damage:
 - Inspect electrical
 - Safety repairs for public access



Continuing Assessment

- Check on equipment & other supplies
 - What “survived”?
 - Severity of damage?
 - Animal feed contaminated?
- Check on off-site staff
 - Who were victims & who can assist?
 - Check on employees who didn’t report to work



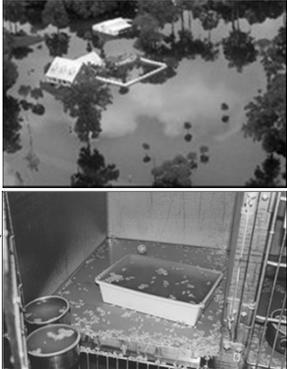

Continuing Assessment

- Keep written records
 - Assess building & contents
 - Photograph or videotape damage
 - Match photos/footage to pre-disaster inventory (*expedites insurance claim!*)
- Notify outside agencies of status & needs
 - National and/or state humane & animal control organizations
 - Request help ASAP
 - Let them know if you *don't* need help as well
 - Remember - It's easier to call out than in

Just in Case: Essentials of Disaster Preparedness for The Veterinary Clinic

Conduct Ongoing Planning

- Review policies & procedures at least annually
- Train on ongoing basis
- Quarterly disaster drills
 - Find oversights & deficiencies
 - Hands-on experience for staff & volunteers
 - Publicize drills for awareness & support



Conduct Ongoing Planning

- Make disaster planning part of day-to-day operation
 - Personnel, equipment & structure change
- Get involved local/state emergency plan



Remember, Unless it is written, a plan doesn't exist.

How to begin.....



Animal Facility Disaster Plan

This plan developed for:

Quick Check

This Plan Developed For

Date:

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES DISASTER SERVICES

Animal Facility Disaster Plan

The plan developed for: _____ Date: _____

I. Evaluation of Facility

A. Known disasters at facility or area

B. Hazards

C. Vulnerability

D. Evacuation routes

E. Structural integrity

F. Wind direction, frequency

G. Flood plain

H. Other exposures

I. Earthquake

J. Wild fire

K. Storm and contamination

L. Emergency management has assessed damage to facility

II. Insurance

A. Knows disaster at facility or area

B. Knows liability

C. Knows contents of policy or

D. Knows structure

E. Knows location

F. Knows location

G. Knows location

H. Knows location

I. Knows location

J. Knows location

III. Priorities

A. Evacuation routes designated and

B. Evacuation routes designated and

C. Evacuation routes designated and

D. Evacuation routes designated and

E. Evacuation routes designated and

F. Evacuation routes designated and

G. Evacuation routes designated and

H. Evacuation routes designated and

I. Evacuation routes designated and

J. Evacuation routes designated and

IV. Employees

A. Knows disaster at facility or area

B. Knows liability

C. Knows contents of policy or

D. Knows structure

E. Knows location

F. Knows location

G. Knows location

H. Knows location

I. Knows location

J. Knows location

V. Specific Preparation

A. Knows disaster at facility or area

B. Knows liability

C. Knows contents of policy or

D. Knows structure

E. Knows location

F. Knows location

G. Knows location

H. Knows location

I. Knows location

J. Knows location

VI. Final Securing of Premises

A. Knows disaster at facility or area

B. Knows liability

C. Knows contents of policy or

D. Knows structure

E. Knows location

F. Knows location

G. Knows location

H. Knows location

I. Knows location

J. Knows location

VII. Returning After the Disaster

A. Knows disaster at facility or area

B. Knows liability

C. Knows contents of policy or

D. Knows structure

E. Knows location

F. Knows location

G. Knows location

H. Knows location

I. Knows location

J. Knows location

VIII. Planning

A. Knows disaster at facility or area

B. Knows liability

C. Knows contents of policy or

D. Knows structure

E. Knows location

F. Knows location

G. Knows location

H. Knows location

I. Knows location

J. Knows location

At the least!

The Sister Hospital Concept

- Inexpensive
- Could be a lifesaver
- In Advance
- Close but Far



The Quick Check

http://hsvma.org/assets/pdfs/hsvma_webinar_disaster_prep_checklist_handout.pdf

AVMA Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide

<https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=193>

CDC - Personal/Family Disaster Plan

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/plan>