

Emergency Support Function 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources

ESF Coordinator

- Grays Harbor County Division of Emergency Management

Primary Agencies

- Grays Harbor County Division of Environmental Health (GHCEH)
- Grays Harbor County Department of Forestry and Tax Title Management
- County and municipal animal services
- Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington Department of Ecology (DOE)

Support Agencies

- Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services
- Washington State University Extension (WSU Ext)
- Local veterinarians
- Private animal welfare organizations
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- Private agricultural/aquaculture organizations and producers
- Private forest land managers
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Municipal forests (Montesano, Hoquiam, Aberdeen)

- Regional Water Purveyors

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

Emergency Support Function 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources (ESF #11) coordinates efforts before, during, and after an emergency or disaster of countywide significance that address:

1. Protection against an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal (including zoonotic¹) or plant/tree disease.
2. Assurance of food safety and security.
3. Care of domestic large and small livestock and pets.
4. Protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

B. Scope

The four primary functions of ESF #11 are to:

1. Implement a local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal disease, an outbreak of highly infective plant/tree disease, or an economically devastating infestation of plants or animals.

¹ A disease, for example, rabies, anthrax, or ringworm that can be transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans

2. Assure the safety and security of the commercial food supply by investigating, testing, and analyzing the potential adulteration of products and implementing a local response.
3. Coordinate actions to prevent the loss of livestock and pets due to a disaster or emergency and to properly dispose of animal carcasses if necessary.
4. Take appropriate action to conserve, restore, and recover natural, cultural, and historic resources before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.

II. POLICIES

- A. Each individual, family, worker, visitor, business, organization and institution within Grays Harbor County is responsible for emergency planning for a minimum of three (3) days of self-sufficiency of both food and water, along with general emergency preparedness.
- B. ESF #11 follows the Incident Command System (ICS).
- C. This plan coordinates the emergency response of a multitude of agencies and organizations. As a result, it is impossible to list all precepts (regulations, policies, and procedures) that regulate the specific operations. Each primary and support agency or organization in this ESF is responsible to develop realistic and manageable precepts specific to its respective emergency operations.
- D. While Incident Command will assist as possible with animal issues, the priority will remain the protection of the health and safety of citizens. It is essential that animal owners remain responsible and accountable for their livestock and pets.
- E. In the event of an emergency or disaster of countywide significance, primary and support agencies will utilize their volunteers to their appropriate level of training and ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the health and safety of all workers.

- F. It is neither implied nor should it be inferred that this plan guarantees that a perfect response to an emergency or disaster will be practical or possible. No plan can shield individuals from all events. While every reasonable effort will be made to respond to emergencies or disasters, resources, and or systems may be overwhelmed. Some events provide little or no warning to implement operational procedures and all emergency plans are dependent upon tactical execution, which may be imperfect. This plan can only be fulfilled if the situation, information exchange, extent of actual capabilities and resources are available at the time of the incident.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Incident Command will organize and coordinate the capabilities and resources of county government, municipalities, private organizations, and the private sector to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, expertise, and other support for emergency operations within this ESF.
2. Upon a proclamation of a state of emergency, the Grays Harbor County Board of County Commissioners may invoke temporary controls on local resources and travel to contain the spread of infectious disease among domesticated animals and food products.
3. GHCEH may need to escalate public health and safety inspections and surveillance. The type and number will be dependent on the cause and impact of the emergency or disaster.
4. The Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds may serve as a temporary boarding facility for domestic livestock.
5. In the event of a tsunami warning, pets under the direct supervision and control of their owners may be evacuated to assembly areas.

B. Organization

1. The WSDA has statutory authority to identify and monitor plant problems. WSU Ext has in place an extensive network of expertise and resources to assist the WSDA in developing an appropriate local response.
2. WSDA, Animal Services, is the primary agency coordinating local response to an outbreak of a countywide significance of infectious disease in domesticated livestock.
3. The GHCEH is the primary agency for coordinating local response to adulterated or suspected adulterated food supplies until such time that the Grays Harbor Emergency Operations Center (EOC) requests state and federal resources through the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD).
4. The GHCEH is the primary agency for coordinating local response to zoonotic disease until such time that the EOC requests state and federal resources through EMD.
5. The WDFW and DOE are the primary agencies for coordinating efforts relating to non-domesticated animal disease or infestation of countywide significance.
6. County departments and municipalities act as the primary agencies for protecting, recovering, and restoring natural, cultural, and historic resources at the local level before,

during, and after an emergency or disaster of countywide significance.

7. The Grays Harbor County Department of Forestry and Tax Title Management is the primary agency for coordinating local response for infestation and disease of commercial forestry resources of countywide significance until such time the EOC requests state and federal resources through the EMD.
8. County departments and municipalities act as the primary agencies for providing assistance, if possible and resources allow, to lost or injured pets before, during, and after an emergency or disaster of countywide significance. Incident Command may request animal welfare organizations or local veterinarians to provide technical assistance and volunteer support to primary agencies in this effort.

C. Procedures

1. Each organization under this ESF will follow its internal standard operating procedures when responding to an incident. When appropriate, agencies will assign a representative to the EOC.
2. When the Incident Commander determines that local resources are exhausted, the EOC will coordinate the request for additional resources through EMD.

3. ESF #11 agencies will endeavor to provide accurate and timely emergency public information to the Grays Harbor County Joint Information Center (JIC) in accordance with ESF #15.

D. Phases of Emergency Management

1. Mitigation and Preparedness Activities

- a. Maintain an inventory of available resources including trained personnel.
- b. Develop and maintain standard operating procedures for emergency and disaster situations.
- c. Retrofit historic and cultural structures to prevent physical damage during emergencies or disasters as funding allows.
- d. Assure the training of personnel and volunteers in their emergency responsibilities.

2. Response and Recovery Activities:

- a. Provide a senior official to operate from the EOC or other command location to assure coordination with other agencies, as necessary.
- b. Coordinate emergency planning activities and information with neighboring jurisdictions and the EOC.

- c. Personnel providing emergency assistance will maintain chain of command in accordance with NIMS procedures and protocols and work within the Incident Command System (ICS).
- d. Maintain records and document all expenditures during the emergency or disaster.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. WSU Ext and the WSDA

- 1. Detect plant and animal diseases in conjunction with local veterinarians and farmers.
- 2. Provide guidance for immediate protective actions within Grays Harbor County and report and maintain liaison to the EOC and state and/or federal agencies.
- 3. Determine the locally affected boundaries.
- 4. Ensure continued contact with agricultural associations.
- 5. Draft agricultural advisories for affected areas and provide information to the JIC in accordance with ESF #15.
- 6. Make recommendations on protective or disposal actions.
- 7. Advise the EOC of health hazards. The EOC will forward all health-related information to GHCEH and Grays Harbor County Department of Public Health and Social Services.

B. WDFW and DOE

1. In partnership with the Grays Harbor Weed Control Board, detect and monitor for invasive and exotic plant infestations.
2. Detect and monitor invasive and exotic fish and wildlife.
3. Provide guidance for immediate protective action within Grays Harbor County and report and maintain liaison with state and/or federal agencies.
4. Determine the locally affected boundaries.
5. Ensure continued contact with the agriculture industry and aquaculture, wildlife associations, and recreational groups.
6. Draft advisories for affected areas and provide information to the JIC.
7. Make recommendations on protective action.
8. Advise the EOC of health hazards. The EOC will forward all health-related information to GHCEH and Grays Harbor County Department of Public Health and Social Services.

C. GHCEH

1. Determine whether food sources for public distribution are safe for human consumption.
2. Detect and monitor zoonotic diseases.

3. Determine the locally affected boundaries.
4. Provide guidance for immediate protective action within Grays Harbor County and report and maintain liaison with state and/or federal agencies.
5. Draft citizen advisories for affected areas and provide information to the JIC.
6. Advise the EOC of health hazards. The EOC will forward all health-related information to Grays Harbor County Department of Public Health and Social Services.

D. Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services

1. Conduct mass inoculation or medication distribution when indicated per ESF #8.

E. Grays Harbor County Department of Forestry and Tax Title Management in cooperation with DNR

1. Detect and monitor commercial tree diseases and pests.
2. Determine the locally affected boundaries of disease or pest infestation.
3. Provide guidance for immediate protective action within Grays Harbor County and report and maintain liaison with state and/or federal agencies.

4. Ensure continued contact with private, state, and federal forestry landowners.
5. Draft forestry advisories for affected areas and provide information to the JIC.
6. Make recommendations on protective action.
7. Advise the EOC of health hazards. The EOC will forward all health-related information to GHCEH and Grays Harbor County Department of Public Health and Social Services.

F. County and Municipal Animal Services

1. Provide citizens with pre-incident education in conjunction with volunteer groups regarding emergency care and evacuation of pets. This includes making livestock owners aware of the need to have current identification and medical information in the event of evacuation as well as anticipate providing appropriate food, water, handling, and medication needs.
2. Identify sites/facilities for boarding and/or quarantining pets, if possible.
3. Coordinate with volunteer organizations and agencies to provide volunteer services for animal care upon request.

G. County Departments and Municipalities and Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources

1. Determine resources available for natural, historic, and cultural resource protection.
2. Attempt to minimize damage or loss to local resources during and after emergencies or disasters.
3. Establish links with state and federal agencies.
4. Inventory and document resources impacted by the disaster or emergency.