



- For an incident involving NCH resources, Interior's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance assumes initial primary responsibility.

Once ESF #11 is activated, the national response coordinator convenes a conference call with the appropriate support agencies and non-Federal partners to assess the situation and determine appropriate actions. The agency then alerts supporting organizations and requests that they provide representation.

Regional-Level Response Structure

Regional ESF #11 operations are also under the direction of the USDA coordinator, who is selected based upon the assistance needed for the specific incident. When the incident requires assistance from more than one of the functional categories, USDA provides a regional contact. When assistance involves only NCH resources protection, Interior provides this regional function until the primary agency for the incident is determined.

- For nutrition assistance, the FNS Regional Disaster Coordinator is the point of contact and is present or available for duty on a 24-hour basis for the duration of the emergency response period. This coordinator represents ESF #11 in its dealings with the rest of the national response group.

- In the event of an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating zoonotic (animal) disease:
 - The State Coordinating Office serves as the State's principal point of contact with the Federal Government, which is represented by the APHIS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge for each State.
 - The State activates its State, regional, or local emergency operations centers, as needed, as the State's base of operations for interfacing with local governments, State agencies, and the private sector.
 - The State Veterinarian and APHIS' Area Veterinarian-in-Charge establish a Joint Operations Center, which serves as the focal point for coordinating the disease management decisionmaking process.
- In the event of a highly infective exotic plant disease or an economically devastating plant pest infestation:
 - The State's top plant health regulatory official serves as the State's principal point of contact with the Federal Government.
 - The State activates its State, regional, or local emergency operations centers, as needed, as the State's base of operations for interfacing with local governments, State agencies, and the private sector.



- APHIS' State Plant Health Director and the State's top plant regulatory official establish a Joint Operations Center, which serves as the focal point for coordinating the disease or pest management decisionmaking process.
- Regardless of the nature of the disease or pest emergency, the State establishes a Joint Information Center (JIC) that functions as the principal source of information about the disease outbreak or pest infestation response in the State. The State JIC coordinates closely with Federal officials to ensure consistency in the information released to the communications media and public.
- In assisting with the disease response, the local or county government activates its emergency operations centers to provide a local base of operations. In some States, a county emergency declaration may be needed to initiate county response activities.
- For food supply safety and security, FSIS' district and field offices nationwide coordinate the field response activities according to internal policies and procedures. A representative of a district office(s) serves as Senior USDA Federal Official of the coordination group in the affected area.
- For assistance in protection of NCH resources, Interior's Regional Environmental Officer or designee is the initial point of contact for the rest of the national response group.

For further information, contact the USDA operations center at either (202) 720-5711 or 1-877-677-2369 (1-877-OPP-CEN9).



United States Department of Agriculture
United States Department of the Interior

Emergency Support Function #11—

Agriculture and Natural Resources: More on the Menu Than Food

Program Aid No. 1821

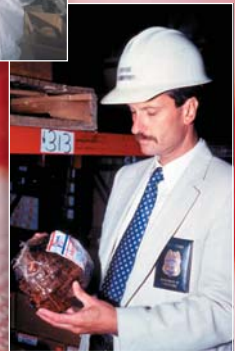
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Emergency Support Function #11—

Agriculture and Natural Resources: More on the Menu Than Food

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 is an annex to the National Response Plan, which establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents. The plan incorporates best practices and procedures from incident management disciplines—homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, public works, public health, responder and recovery worker health and safety, emergency medical services, and the private sector—and integrates them into a unified



structure. The plan forms the basis of how the Federal Government coordinates with State, Tribal, and local governments and the private sector during incidents.

ESF #11 –Agriculture and Natural Resources supports State, Tribal, and local authorities and other Federal agency efforts to address:

Provision of nutrition assistance

Includes determining nutrition assistance needs, obtaining appropriate food supplies, arranging for delivery of supplies, and authorizing disaster food stamp assistance.

Animal and plant disease and pest response

Includes implementing an integrated Federal, State, Tribal, and local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating zoonotic (animal) disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation. Ensures that animal, veterinary, and wildlife issues in natural disasters are supported in coordination with the emergency support function that covers public health and medical services (ESF #8).

Assurance of the safety and security of the commercial food supply

Includes the inspection and verification of food safety aspects of slaughter and processing plants, products in distribution and retail sites, and import facilities at ports of entry; laboratory analysis of food samples; control of products suspected to be adulterated; plant closures; foodborne disease surveillance; and field investigations.

Protection of natural and cultural resources, and historic properties (NCH resources)

Includes appropriate response actions to conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore NCH resources.

Table —1 ESF #11 functional categories and responsibilities

Functional categories	Nutrition assistance	Animal and plant disease and pest response	Food safety and security supply	NCH resources protection
ESF #11 Coordinator	USDA/FNS*	USDA/APHIS	USDA/FSIS	DOI
ESF #11 Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine nutritional assistance needs. Obtain appropriate food supplies. Arrange for transportation for food supplies. Authorize disaster food stamp assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement an integrated national-level response to an outbreak of an economically devastating or highly contagious animal/zoonotic or exotic plant disease or plant pest infestation. Coordinate veterinary and wildlife services in affected areas. In response to a biohazardous event, the decontamination and/or destruction of animals and plants as well as associated facilities (e.g., barns, processing equipment, soil, and feeding and growing areas) may be required. Coordinate with ESF #8 on animal/veterinary/wildlife issues in disease and natural disaster issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide inspection and verification of meat, poultry, and egg products in affected areas. Perform surveillance of food-borne disease. Coordinate recall and tracing of adulterated products. Coordinate disposal of contaminated food products. Provide inspectors and laboratory services to affected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate NCH resources identification and vulnerability assessments. Facilitate development and application of protection measures and strategies. Assist in emergency compliance with relevant Federal environmental laws during emergency response activities, such as emergency permits/consultation for natural resources use or consumption. Manage, monitor, and assist in or conduct response and recovery actions to minimize damage to NCH resources. Coordinate with ESF #3 and #10 on the removal of debris affecting NCH resources. Coordinate with ESF #3 to manage, monitor, or provide technical assistance on emergency stabilization (and during recovery, restoration) of shorelines, riparian buffer zones, and hillsides to protect NCH resources. Provide Incident Management Teams to assist in NCH resource response and recovery actions.

*Agency abbreviations: USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture, FNS = Food and Nutrition Service, APHIS = Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, FSIS = Food Safety and Inspection Service, DOI = U.S. Department of the Interior.

Headquarters-Level Response Structure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) serves as the coordinator for ESF #11 and is responsible for organizing the ESF staff into the four primary functional categories. Activities at headquarters are directed by a USDA coordinator, who is selected based upon the assistance needed for the specific incident. If the incident requires NCH resources protection, the U.S. Department of the Interior will provide the headquarters direction and coordination. When an incident requires assistance from more than one of the functional categories, USDA provides the overall direction.

The coordination for specific incidents will be carried out by the most appropriate agency. For example:

- For nutrition assistance, the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) National Disaster Coordinator is the point of contact and coordinates FNS' response activities with other agencies on behalf of FNS' disaster taskforce.
- For animal and plant disease and pest response, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) assumes primary responsibility.
- For an incident involving food safety and security, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) assumes primary responsibility.

Continued on back

