

## Are you prepared to continue practicing in the aftermath of a disaster?

Disasters can occur at any time, in any place. What would you do to continue practicing veterinary medicine, to continue paying your staff, and to communicate with your clients? If you do not prepare now for what you will do in a disaster, then the disaster will dictate the outcome of your business—possibly the outcome of your life.

## American Veterinary Medical Foundation

Reimburses veterinarians who treat animals injured in disasters (DREF)

Supports the AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT)

Funds disaster preparedness literature

Provides veterinary education grants and loans

Supports Congressional Science Fellowships



1-800-248-2862 ext.600

[www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org)

Contributions enable the AVMF to enrich the veterinary profession.

## Additional Information Available from:

### AVMA Disaster Preparedness and Response Guide

*Saving the Whole Family: a disaster preparedness booklet for animal owners*

[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Disaster Impact Helpline 800-462-9029

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

### **Occupational Safety & Health Administration**

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

### **Small Business Administration**

Disaster Loans 800-488-5323

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

[www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)

### **The American Red Cross**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

### **Internal Revenue Services**

Tax assistance

[www.irs.ustreas.gov/pas/disaster/default.htm](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/pas/disaster/default.htm)

### **Farm Service Agency**

Farm assistance

[www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/disaster/default.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/disaster/default.htm)

### **Social Security Administration**

Social Security benefits

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans benefits

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



# DISASTER

## Preparedness for Veterinary Practices



## Business



Document Everything. Keep duplicate copies of all documents stored in a secure off-site location

Written Business Plan (guidelines for practice: can be used in the aftermath of a disaster)

Disaster mitigation (disaster-proof your practice)

Water system independent of electrical system

Store oxygen tanks in isolated room

Itemized inventory with replacement value included (copy on-site and off-site)

Keep receipts of everything included with inventory

Current copies of files and computer records off-site

Insurance policy (additional details follow)

Videotape and/or photographs of facility and all equipment (include date(s) taken)

Fireproof and waterproof safes (fireproof safes will not protect computer disks from melting)

Alternative communication (do not rely on phones, cell-phones, or pagers)

Alternative power source (examples: generators, solar power)

Plan for continued refrigeration

Install temporary roof immediately (damage occurring after the disaster, due to inclement weather conditions, will not be covered)

Alternative Practice Location

- work from a local colleague's hospital
- give a % of income to colleague
- keep practicing close to original site to keep current clients

Adopt a sister practice

- establish a relationship with a practice outside immediate area that might not be affected by a disaster at the same time you are
- In the event of a disaster that affects one of you and not the other, the affected hospital can utilize staff and supplies from the operating hospital

List of suppliers (name, address, number) to get needed supplies as soon as possible

Secure practice from theft and looting

Familiarize yourself with tax laws and deductible disaster expenses

## Insurance



Business Interruption (continuing expenses)

Extra Expense (over-time and relocation expenses)

Professional Extension (injury/loss/death of animals)

Loss of Income

Personal Property (replacement cost)

Automatic Inflation (current value)

Fire Damage

Water Damage

Debris Removal/Cleanup

Comprehensive building and structure replacement

Liability (general & professional)

Rented and leased equipment

Power interruption

Heating/Air interruption

Sewer system problems

Worker's Compensation

## Additional Options to Consider

Civil Ordinance (coverage for business when authorities will not allow access to hospital)

Flood

Earthquake

Windstorm

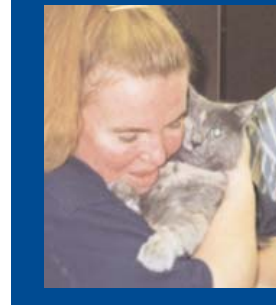
### Business Owners Policy

AVMA PLIT

800-228-PLIT ext. 5722

[www.avmaplit.com](http://www.avmaplit.com)

## Staff and Patients



Emergency and evacuation plans

Unobstructed escape routes

Emergency lighting

Multiple exits

Accessible and adequate numbers of leashes and carriers for animal evacuation

Adequate animal transportation

Regular disaster/evacuation drills (invite local fire department)

Phone-tree with 24-hour contact numbers

Off-site emergency meeting place

Off-site temporary animal shelter

Alternative food and water sources in case of contamination

Identification on all animals at all times

Employees' personal family disaster plan (so things at home are taken care of, and they will be available to help at the practice)

Inventory of hazardous materials (on-site and off-site copy)

Identification cards for each employee proving they work at the facility (these should be held by current employees only)

*Please turn over*

