

ESF #11 – AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PURPOSE

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources supports State, tribal, and local authorities and other Federal agency efforts to:

- Provide nutrition assistance.
- Control and eradicate, as appropriate, any outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic (i.e., transmitted between animals and people) disease or any outbreak of an economically devastating plant pest or disease.
- Ensure the safety and security of the commercial food supply.
- Protect natural and cultural resources and historic properties (NCH) resources.
- Provide for the safety and well-being of household pets during an emergency response or evacuation situation.

CAPABILITIES

ESF #11 includes the following five primary functions:

1. **Providing nutrition assistance:** Includes working with State agencies to determine nutrition assistance needs, obtain appropriate food supplies, arrange for delivery of the supplies, and authorize the Disaster Food Stamp Program. These efforts are coordinated by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).
2. **Responding to animal and plant diseases and pests:** Includes implementing an integrated Federal, State, tribal, and local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, or an outbreak of a harmful or economically significant plant pest or disease. ESF #11 ensures, in coordination with ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services, that animal/veterinary issues in natural disasters are supported. These efforts are coordinated by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
3. **Ensuring the safety and security of the commercial food supply:** Includes the execution of routine food safety inspections and other services to ensure the safety of food products that enter commerce. This 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. These efforts are coordinated by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).
4. **Protecting NCH resources:** Includes appropriate response actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore NCH resources. This includes providing postevent baseline assessments of damages and providing technical assistance and resources for assessing impacts of response and recovery activities to NCH resources. These efforts are coordinated by the Department of the Interior (DOI).
5. **Providing for the safety and well-being of household pets:** Supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) together with ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; ESF #8; ESF #9 – Search and Rescue; and ESF #14 – Long-Term

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Community Recovery to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of household pets. The ESF #11 effort is coordinated by USDA/APHIS.

MEMBERS

ESF Coordinator: Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Primary Agencies:

Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Department of the Interior (DOI)

Support Agencies:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- General Services Administration
- National Archives and Records Administration
- U.S. Postal Service
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- American Red Cross
- Heritage Emergency National Task Force

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Once ESF #11 is activated, the national response is coordinated by USDA at the National Response Coordination Center. The coordinator convenes a conference call with 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.

The headquarters ESF operates under the direction of the USDA coordinator. When the assistance needed involves NCH resources protection, DOI provides headquarters direction and coordination. When an incident requires assistance from more than one of the ESF #11 functions, USDA provides the overall direction.

At the regional level, ESF #11 operates under the direction of a USDA coordinator, who is determined based upon the assistance needed for the specific incident. When an incident requires assistance from more than one of the ESF #11 functions, USDA provides the regional point of contact within the Regional Response Coordination Center and represents ESF #11 in its dealings with the Unified Coordination Group. ESF #11 will have staff on duty at the Joint Field Office on a 24-hour basis, as needed for the duration of the emergency.

To see the complete annex, as well as other pertinent information, refer to the NRF Resource Center at www.fema.gov/NRF.
