Animals in Disasters

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Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART)
*Major Tennessee Disasters affecting animals*
Macon Tornado
February 5, 2008
*Macon County after the Feb. 2008 Tornado*
2010 Floods in Tennessee

Opryland Hotel
A weather system brought very heavy rain and severe thunderstorms plus 14 tornadoes from Saturday, May 1 through Sunday morning, May 2.
Many locations along I-40 corridor across western and middle Tennessee reported in excess of 10 to 15 inches, with some locations receiving up to 20 inches according to Doppler radar estimates.
Nashville Humane Association has a MOU with the Nashville chapter of the American Red Cross to assist with pet friendly shelters for pet owner evacuees in the Red Cross shelters.

* NHA is mobilized by OEM in Davidson County

Davidson County Animal Control collected lost and stray pets
* Major Tennessee Disasters affecting animals

* May 2010 Floods- Heifer on the roof in Bellevue
* **April 27, 28, 2011**

Tornado outbreak

* April 25-28 tornado event was the largest tornado outbreak ever recorded.

* April 27 had the most tornado-related fatalities in the US in one day since March 18, 1925.

* **Major Tennessee Disasters affecting animals**
Emergencies and Disasters are always a local event
* Animal Care during Emergencies
  The Tennessee Plan
* How are Emergencies in the Tennessee counties handled?
The 911 of State Government

* TEMA coordinates State response and provides assistance to local government with resources needed to protect life and property of the citizens of the State of Tennessee
* Tennessee Emergency Management Plan (TEMP)
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Emergency Support Function 16 (ESF 16)

Animal Care and Housing
* TEMA’s ESF Concept of Operation

ESF 4 - Firefighting - Forestry
ESF 9 - Search and Rescue
ESF 10 - Environmental Response
ESF 11 - Food
ESF 12 - Energy
ESF 13 - Law Enforcement
ESF 14 - Donations and Volunteers
ESF 15 - Recovery
ESF 16 - Animal Care and Housing
Emergency Support Function 16

*Developed as an “all hazard- all animal” working document for use at the County and State level.*
Emergency Support Function 16 (ESF 16)

Care and Housing of Animals during Emergencies and Disasters

Tennessee Department of Agriculture lead agency
* Credentialing of animal workers in the state
* Assist the counties with development of Disaster Animal Response Teams.
To Assist Emergency Management to Make the Disaster Site:

* Safe for people and animals

* Secure for people and animals

and

* Identify a pool of qualified persons able to work with animals during an emergency or disaster
1. Incident Command System - IS 100, 200
   National Incident Management System - IS 700 & IS 800
   How ICS is utilized in an animal related disaster

2. Knowledge of TEMA & the TEMP

3. Knowledge of ESF 16

4. Basic Biosecurity

5. Foreign Animal Diseases overview
   Reporting of FADs and TDA/USDA Response

6. Complete an application & TN DART Code of Conduct
* The county Disaster Animal Response Teams are under the direction of the county EMA

* Good source for volunteers to assist Animal Control in time of disasters or emergencies.
*Chimney Tops fire was started November 23rd and reported to the US Fire Service at 5:20 PM.

*It was located 5.5 miles from Gatlinburg. The fire was 1.5 acres in size located on the North Spire.

*Chimney Tops-Great Smokey Mountains
Saturday November 26 the fire was 6 acres in size. A four (4) day Analysis from the USFS Rocky Mtn. Research Station predicted slow growth downhill away from Gatlinburg.

Sunday, November 27 winds picked up and the humidity dropped. NWS predicted winds of 12 mph. gusting to 25. Actual gusts were 40 mph. Size of the fire was now 35 acres.
Sunday: Helicopters dumped water on the hottest sections.

Monday November 28 it was discovered that burning embers had created “spot fires” a mile from the main fire on Chimney Tops, still 4.5 miles from Gatlinburg.
Monday November 28th at 11:35 AM a spot fire was discovered about 1.5 miles from Gatlinburg in the Twin Creeks area. The fire had spread 3 miles in 4.5 hrs.

At 11:45 the Gatlinburg Fire Department positioned firefighters at the park boundary.

Chief Miller (Gatlinburg FD) over the next several hours requested mutual aid from Fire Departments from across the state. 200 Firefighters from 47 Fire Departments responded.
* Fires Reported 6:00 PM

Fires Reported at 8:00 PM
*Gatlinburg Fires
November 28-29, 2016
Animal Shelters

* Four American Red Cross Shelters were opened Monday November 28.

* Tuesday morning TEMA called at 3:00 AM and requested sheltering for 200 pets at the LeConte and the Rocky Top Sports Complex ARC shelters which were sheltering 1200 individuals displaced by the fires.
Tuesday morning TN Department of Agriculture & USDA personnel along with the Hamilton Co., Bradley and Wilson Co. Disaster Animal Response Teams opened Animal Shelters at LeConte and the Rocky Top Sports Complex ARC shelters
The LeConte Center ARC shelter in Pigeon Forge remained opened 48 hrs. Then individuals with pets were transferred to the Rocky Top Complex ARC shelter.

The DART teams managed the shelter for 8 days, then the last 8 days the shelter was manned by the American Humane sheltering team.
The Rocky Top Sports Complex Shelter was open from November 29-December 14, 2017.
A firestorm raced through Sevier County on Nov. 28, covering more than 17,000 acres, displacing more than 14,000 residents and visitors, and destroying or damaging 2,460 homes.
Formula to estimate # of animals in a community:

Multiply total # of household by a factor:

- $0.361 \times \text{total} = \text{number of dog-owning households} = \frac{1}{3}$
- $0.316 \times \text{total} = \text{number of cat-owning households} = \frac{1}{3}$
- $0.017 \times \text{total} = \text{number of horse-owners} = \frac{1}{50}$

Source: University of Albany

School of Public Health
Estimated Pet Owning households in Chattanooga area

Households in Hamilton County: 135,496

- Dogs owners: 48,914
- Cats owners: 42,817
- Horse owners: 2,303
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