Are You Ready?

Your Animals Depend On It

Contingency Planning for Collections
Introductions

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A little bit of history.....
Avian Influenza
Flu at the Zoo
Disaster Preparedness and Contingency Planning

Documents for Wildlife Managers
The ZAHP Fusion Center
Who we are not...
Who we are....
Why invest time and resources into contingency planning?
Our community is uniquely vulnerable!

“If you’re picking up furniture and throwing it up on a truck — anybody can do that,” said Terry Lincoln, the director of the (Dakota) zoo..... “In a zoo setting you can’t take someone off the street and, say, ‘Go get the 500-pound lion.’

It just doesn’t work that way.”
...and a little overconfident

“We don’t have to worry about the zoo....
They have their own plan”
We have many examples of disasters!

• Our community is not immune, neither is yours!
• The best ‘plans’ are in facilities that have had disasters!
• New threats are now realities
• Climate change

We **must** share lessons learned and best practices!
Why plan for your animals in disasters?

• Staff safety
• High societal value
• Protecting public safety
• Protect first responders
• Public and agricultural health
• Conservation
• Good Business practice!
Public Perception!

“If you are going to strip an animal of it's home in the wild and stick it in a cage so we can all gawk at it for entertainment then you better damn well put as much effort into keeping it safe as you do keeping the public safe from it. I don't think it is fair to say "well mother nature did something unusual". Responsibility is responsibility. If you can't plan for unexpected emergencies, then you shouldn't have a zoo, period.”
Have I convinced you yet?
Hurricane Katrina
Black Bear Yard
Many fences damaged
Greenhouse Severely Damaged
in the Reptile “Bunker”

We plan for possible 2 weeks of isolation

Response Team 2005:
- 1 Vet & 1 Hospital Tech/ Keeper
- 3 Security Guards/ EMTs
- 1 Electrician (Absent)
- 1 Arborist/ Heavy-Machinery Operator
- 1 Commissary Specialist/ Keeper
- 5 Curators or Keepers
- General Curator

Response Team 2008:
- 1 Vet & 2 Hospital Techs/ Keepers
- 3 Security Guards/ EMTs
- 1 Electrician
- 1 Arborist/ Heavy-Machinery Operator
- 1 Commissary Specialist/ Keeper
- 15 Curators or Keepers
- General Curator
- Mechanic
- Facilities Director
- Chef
Superior Zoo Flooding
Training pays off!
Gatlinburg Fire: Ripley’s Aquarium
BREAKING
ON THE PHONE: RYAN DESEAR - TN RIPLEY ATTRACTIONS GM
FLAMES SEEN BEHIND RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM

RAIN CHANCES    FIRE EVACUATIONS    RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM
Lessons learned

- Those that have plans in place have better outcomes
- Integration with local responders is key to success
- Human life must come first
Planning Fundamentals

Contingency Planning Modules
Start planning today!
The planning process is more important than the plan itself...
Emergency Management is a Professional Discipline.

Gain cultural literacy
- Speak the language.
- Understand the framework.
Priority 1. Preserve Human Life

No other goals should conflict
Priority 2. Stabilize the Situation

• Who determines safety?
  It may not be you.

• What needs to be stabilized that is unique to our industry?
Priority 3. Preserve Property

Animals are property.

They come after staff, public, and responder safety.
Setting SMART Objectives

- Simple
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Reasonable
- Time Sensitive
Why use planning partners?

Partners already know “local risks” and event history, dramatically reducing your risk research time.

They have information needed to “write the plan”

Partners respond when you need them.
Planning Partners

Assist with:

Integrating you into their plans

Disaster resource acquisition

Your recovery
Local Partners

Disasters begin and end locally!

Your ‘locals’ are first to respond. They know the next steps when their resources are overwhelmed!
Partners

- First responders
- County?
- State?
- Federal?
Non-Governmental Organizations

Get to know your local NGOs:

- Anti-cruelty societies
- Herpetological societies, etc.
- Agricultural animal associations
- Other facilities!
Disaster Partners - Take Home Points

Assist with Regional Risk Assessment
Provide vital input for your plan development
Integrate you into their plans
Assist with disaster resource acquisition
Support recovery
Why do I need a risk assessment?

Knowing the risks ensures proper preparation for the most significant or most likely scenarios.

Plan for the threats that are most likely to happen
Prioritize your risks, planning

High Probability – Severe Consequences

Low Probability – Severe Consequences

High Probability – Minimal Consequences

Low Probability – Minimal Consequences
‘Internal’ vs. ‘External’
Animal-related Risk

Requiring specialized equipment/experience:

- Large raptors
- Venomous Snakes
- Venomous Lizards
Needs and Limitations....

Before you begin to write your plan:

- Choose top hazards of high likelihood or consequence
- Identify resources required to address each
- Inventory your current resources
- Identify any resources still needed and plan acquisition
- Recognize limitations.
Current Resource Needs

Required resources minus available resources:

• Identifies physical, logistical, and human resources required
• Inventories existing resources
• Determines remaining resource needs

It makes no sense to write a plan without the resources available to accomplish it.
“Storm Rider” Team

What: A small group of staff that, with specialized training and equipment, perform critical functions in a disaster.

Why: They may be the only shelter in place staff during and immediately post disaster, until assistance arrives.
Write your plan

- Homework: partners, risk assessment, needs and limitations....then write the plan!
- Assemble documents
- Maps, floorplans, MOUs
Determine Plan Components

- Communication
- Administration
- Data Preservation
- Shelter in Place
- Evacuation
- Infrastructure Assessment
Determine Plan Components

• Safety and Security
• Animal Escape
• Use of lethal force
• Animal Shelter-in-Place
• Animal Evacuation
• Infectious Disease
The Cycle of Disaster Preparation

1. Review Lessons Learned
2. Generate List of Needs
3. Modify or Create Plan
4. Implement Response Plan
5. Train to the Plan
6. Recovery and Risk Re-Evaluation

The cycle continues as lessons learned from each step are reviewed to refine and improve the plan for future disasters.
### Exercise Types

#### Complexity and Capability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning/Training</th>
<th>Capabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations-Based</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion-Based</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise Types</th>
<th>Complexity and Capability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Scale Exercise</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Exercises</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drills</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabletops</td>
<td>Very Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Very Very Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>Very Very Very Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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FEMA; [https://emilms.fema.gov/is1a/EMOPsummary.htm](https://emilms.fema.gov/is1a/EMOPsummary.htm)
Training and Exercise
Final Thoughts

Make it realistic!

Make it Challenging!

Make it engaging!
Plan Maintenance

Evaluate/review plans at least annually, and if new risks or needs are identified.

Reassess risks after every event.

Identify new limitations and needs post event.
ZAHP
FUSION CENTER
Preparedness
Response
Recovery
Questions?

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