

Equine Evacuation and Response Plan

(Sept. 11, 2007)

1. **Formalize Incident Command System (ICS) Orientation, Training, and Implementation at All Levels of the Animal Response Community:**

The jurisdictional authority for the responsibility for animal issues should be made up of the State Veterinarian and the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in a Unified Command and operate at the **Area Command** in any major animal related disaster or disease situation as designated by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the U.S.D.A., A.P.H.I.S., Veterinary Services Western Regional Office.

1. **The Louisiana State Animal Disaster Response Area Command**, located in the designated central office, shall oversee activities of all subordinate response groups and animal shelters in its jurisdiction, holding a daily staff meeting for the purpose of:
 - i. Addressing problems and issues as they develop, and setting priorities of the incident response as per previous days' situation reports, and requests from subordinate groups.
 - ii. Formulate daily Situation Reports (Sit Reps) for the regional and national officials.
 - iii. Coordinates daily Incident Action Plans from, and to, operations.
 - iv. Provide Logistical Support (staffing, equipment, and supplies) that cannot be accommodated at the local or regional level.
 - v. Orchestrate media and public information releases for posting on a daily basis as per joint incident command coordination.
2. Each subordinate group shall install an incident command system or organization and hierarchy, including at least a Branch Leader/supervisor and the four main subordinate sections (Planning, Operations, Logistics, and Finance/Administration). The duties and responsibilities of each section shall be carried forth according to Incident Command System protocol.

See following URL for Introduction and links to Incident Command System:

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>.

Each incident management team (IMT) under the Area Command shall be established by, or in coordination with, the designated parish animal control official (stationed or assigned to each parish emergency operations center) and the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART) Area Command if the response involves more than one parish. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) shall be developed for each animal shelter or point of distribution center. Incorporated in that SOP shall be the requirement that 2 shelter supervisors will share 12 hour shifts (as outlined under ICS) at the local response unit. Upon establishment, local response units will be responsible for notifying the parish emergency operations center and the LSART Area Command. Daily situation reports will be transmitted to the Area Command, preferably electronically, or by any alternate means agreeable to the Area Command. Daily situation reports will contain information as outlined in Appendix 1.

1. Animal-related Problems shall be addressed locally, or referred to the Area Command when necessary. When local resources are insufficient to provide the needed response, assistance should be requested immediately to the Area Command via parish EOC official personnel (sheriff, OEP director, animal control officer for eg.). Disaster response for animal needs in Louisiana is managed via ESF-11 (Emergency Support Function-11). If the Area Command is unable to meet the needs using state resources, the Area Commander (i.e, State Veterinarian) can request additional Federal animal response assistance via an Action Request Form (ARF) submitted through the State Emergency Operations Center.
 - Federal Emergency Support Function (ESFs) include:

- U.S. Public Health Service public health (USPHS) veterinarians (expertise in small and large animal care , sheltering operations and management, zoonotic disease surveillance, control, prevention; hazardous waste disposal, etc.)
- USPHS: medical staff to support medical clinic for large emergency animal shelters
- VMATs (or newly adopted name): these come with both staff and equipment for a field hospital for both large and small animal medicine
- USDA veterinarians, available from APHIS,
- US Army veterinary units.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Farm Service Agency
- USDA, APHIS, PPQ
- Other ESFs, as needed (eg. transportation)
- Local interest (response) groups that should be notified: Non-ogernment organizations and/or individual volunteers should be given the opportunity to make a commitment to participate in the animal disaster response. All groups will be required to be recognized members of the Louisiana SART. If they should elect to participate, they should define their role (either through an MOU, MAA, or other agreement form) including, but not exclusive to, the following items:
 1. list of responsibilities that each is willing and able to accept
 2. limits in terms of time and expenditures should be in detail
 3. leadership and or contact persons involved

The following groups may be included in the list AND must be able to contribute usefulness to the goal/mission of disaster animal relief as determined by the LSART organization leadership:

- Local animal control officers
- Local humane groups – although limited to 2-3
- L.S.U. AgCenter, Cooperative Extension Service
- Southern University AgCenter
- Louisiana Horse Council
- Louisiana Racing Commission
- Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine
- Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
- Louisiana Cattleman’s Association
- Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
- Louisiana Livestock Auction Market Association
- Horseman’s Benevolet Protection Association (HBPA)
- Local veterinary practitioner associations
- Parish agricultural extension agents
- Parish fairgrounds
- Equine auction facilities
- Lamar-Dixon Expo Center
- Sugarena
- Local Equine Clubs or Associations
- Louisiana Animal Control Association (LACA)
- Regional Animal Response Teams (RARTs)
- Each and every one of these units shall operate under the direction of the Incident Management Team to which they are assigned. All responders will be required to be credentialed (having been trained in the ICS). ICS training for any person in leadership (IMT) will be required to successfully complete ICS through NIMS 700.
- The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry shall delegate the Area Command which very likely will be the State Veterinarian and the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) as the Unified Co-Commanders for any major animal related disaster or disease situation.
- Dr. Rebecca McConnico of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has been designated as the Equine Section/Branch Leader (supervisor) for Louisiana. Additional Branch leaders for equine will be determined for Central and Northern regions of the state.

4. Coordination, communication, and collaboration with **Area Command** by local response units

must be emphasized on a continuing basis in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the mission of **Area Command** and to avoid duplication of effort.

5. The LVMA/LSU-EHSP Equine Search & Rescue Unit, AgCenter unit, individual animal shelters, and other designated units, shall have designated branch/unit leaders. These leaders or their designated representatives (multiple units carrying out identical missions and different sites) shall report to a common Incident Commander (area commander):
 - i. Each branch leader shall communicate daily with the designated State Animal Response Team (LSART) Coordinator, (each day prior to the daily staff meeting) who will participate in the in the daily staff meetings at Area Command, acting as a spokesperson for each unit represented; **and,**
 - ii. Each unit supervisor/leader shall designate a scribe who would submit (via FAX or E-Mail) daily Situation Reports (Sit Reps) to Area Command.
(Sit Reps are an absolute requirement in that they provide a record not only for the benefit of local and national staff, but also in case of litigation.)
 - iii. Area Command Staff meetings shall be scheduled each day at 10:00 AM, and all of the preliminary discussions and subcommittee meetings can be scheduled for 8:00 AM.

(The reason for this is if the Area Command staff meetings become unwieldingly large it cannot be efficient and effective in establishing protocol, and to avoid unnecessary time requirements on the individual unit Incident Commanders.)

(FEMA can set up teleconference lines if necessary.)

6. The Logistics Section of Area Command shall support (with the timely procurement, and delivery, of supplies and support personnel as they are requested, as well as maintaining an inventory of supplies and bookkeeping responsibilities involved with maintaining the Logistics Section) the activities of all sections and branches under the direction of Area Command .
Adequate staffing and organization of this section shall become the highest priority of Area Command.
- Participating humane groups shall provide a mechanism to funnel funds into the **LSART organization via the LVMA Equine Committee Foundation or Dr. Walter J. Ernst Jr. Fund at the LVMA (Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association).**
 - If necessary, upon request of Area Command, FEMA/U.S. Forest Service/VOAD will provide experienced – and helpful-- Incident Management Teams to support and augment local administrative/ management resources (i.e., LOGISTICAL) in the conduct of the daily routines of Incident/Area Command Management.
Accounts shall be set up at designated feed stores, hardware stores, veterinary supply houses, etc. so that supplies and equipment could be acquired on an emergency basis. Needs shall be reflected on the daily Sit Reports and delivered to the Logistics Chief or Coordinator. Orders are documented in writing and submitted daily to the Logistics Chief.

Storage/warehouse facilities for notated supplies shall be procured early and adequately staffed with personnel. An 8' X 8' X 20' secure portable storage unit for LSART (equine branch) is located on the grounds of the LSU-Veterinary Sciences Farm (LSU-AgCenter) and is being maintained by the LSU-School of Veterinary Medicine Student Chapter of Equine Practitioners. A second storage facility is located in Ruston, Louisiana under the supervision of Ms. Aleta Overby and the Euqine Science Department at Louisiana Tech University. Supplies included in these storage

facilities include basic equine shelter supplies, veterinary supplies, and office materials. A third site is planned for the Lake Charles area of Louisiana.

A requirement for donating supplies shall be an inventory list accompanying the shipment.

Locations for rescue and housing facilities shall be predetermined, based on:

1. Cost estimates (rental and boarding fees)
 2. Insurance requirements
 3. Associated amenities (water, electricity, lighting, phones, security).
7. In order to preserve the continuity of staff throughout the animal disaster response Area Command, key leadership (Chief) positions in the Area Command, shall be composed of residents who can remain in place for as long as Area Command is intact, or composed of experienced staff who can be detailed from other government agencies for up to 30 days at a time. *(This function is normally anticipated in the Resources Unit of the Planning Section, that relays that request/requirement to the Logistics Section that completes the personnel recruitment or ARF.)*

LSART members should become branch or section leaders/supervisors when the Incident Management Teams are deployed at a local response level (such as emergency shelters, central telephone HOTLINE branch, public information center, etc.) These individuals must be “pre-identified,” and credentialed, as being available on a long term basis and are required to have limitations on consecutive hours of assignment of not greater than 12 hrs/shift).

Stable, reliant, trained (through ICS 100, 200, 300, 700, and 800 levels), and consistent Operations Section Chiefs or Branch Directors are essential to direct specific operational activities [animal husbandry, veterinary care, rescue, fostering, etc.] that will be necessary in a response to a natural disaster or a catastrophic animal disease incident.

Team members should be qualified, trained, and credentialed and be made up of the State/Federal regulatory personnel, LSART members, or veterinary practitioners that normally operate within an area or state.

The Standard Operations and Procedures shall be recorded in a concise form and posted in a conspicuous location on site, as well as recorded and maintained by Area Command.

Financial compensation and reimbursements (if any) shall be pre-determined for key leadership and veterinary personnel. Time and attendance (T & As) shall be documented and approved by supervisors on a weekly basis. (Volunteers, who serve in two week shifts, will receive only the satisfaction of contributing and will not be reimbursed for their time/services or expertise.)

Written delegation of authority to each Incident Commander or branch leader, with the objectives of the response, must be recorded in the Finances and Administrations Section.

1. For those positions for which there must be turn-over of personnel, there shall be enough overlap (a minimum of 2-3 days; 5-7 days is recommended) of personnel changes in order to insure a smooth transition and minimal disruption in uniformity of the operation. Subsequent rotations (i.e., the second transition and more) will require a 2-3 day overlap period each time because of the continuously changing spectrum.
2. Key positions such as Incident Commanders should have designated Deputies that have delegated authority to make decisions in the absence of the Incident Commander. To the extent possible, each of

the Section level positions should also have designated deputies that can function in the absence of the Section Chief. For critical Operations Section Branches, deputies should also be designated, especially when operations extend beyond 12 hours per day.

3. Key positions shall have assistants or deputies delegated who can and will serve in the leadership role in the absence of the incumbent.
4. For those positions that require staffing on a 24/7 schedule, dual or triplicate operational periods, each with a separate IAP shall be assigned in order to prevent fatigue, stress-related "burn-out," fatigue-related errors in judgment, and inefficiency.

1. A shift-change briefing is required in order to hand-off responsibilities at the end of each shift.
2. The Incident Management Team (IMT) staff will be responsible for enforcing administrative limits, according to agency policy, on consecutive hours and days worked. It is absolutely essential that 17-20 hour days for days or weeks on end are prevented.

[Additional IMTs (or components of them) might be very useful support at the major operational unit level if there appears to be a low level of familiarity with ICS (how to participate with reference to the Incident Command environment), as well as a lack of awareness regarding other state/federal resources that could be called in to fill gaps and to augment operational staffing and logistical needs. The sub-unit IMTs could be very helpful in the overall learning curve to assist field operational units see how to coordinate their functions as part of the Area IC. The IMT would be responsible for setting up the "staff rhythm" of shift-change briefings, conference call lines and standard times to report in for situational awareness, daily sit-reps, etc.]

If civilian animal rescue organizations are allowed to participate in future emergency responses -- as seems inevitable and necessary -- it may be wise to give some thought in advance to assigning each organization an IMT to assist them in their learning curve with operating smoothly in an ICS environment, the organization of the command structure, and to act as liaisons to orient them to the overall mission and responsibilities of ESF-11 and the overall disaster response.]

- i. The Incident Management Team (IMT) staff will be responsible for assembling staff for to assure timely and meaningful shift-change briefings.
 - ii. The Incident Management Team (IMT) staff, in partnership with the Area Planning Section, will be responsible for documenting and tracking the status of action items between shifts and from day-to-day from Sit Reps and other reports.
 - iii. The (IMT) staff will be responsible for preparing end-of-shift reports (unit logs).
8. Pre-Disaster Response Capital:
 - i. A grant application is being prepared for submission to the Dr. Walter J. Ernst Foundation Board requesting \$300,000.00 for future animal disaster responses, and \$10,000.00 for each of the eight (8) LVMA Regions.
 - ii. Two storage containers (Pods) will be placed in 3 LVMA Region (preferably at the Animal Control Facility containing enough supplies to support a 100 animal shelter.
 - iii. Equine will 'stockpile' materials for record-keeping and will arrange with local parish retail/wholesale farm supply to supply animal husbandry and care needs.
 - iv. A Grant from Petsmart Charities, AVMA Foundation, or other fundinign agency, will support LSART member training.

2. Equine Permanent Identification (microchip, lip tattoo, etc.) Database:

A centralized and readily searchable electronic database will be established linking the horse with the owner or premises to facilitate trace-back and trace-forward to facilitate disease eradication (epidemiological) and owner contact procedures. This central database may be sponsored by the Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, LVMA, Global Vet Link, or some other means (pre-registration for disaster assistance).

There MUST be a single database kept with information. Since the State Veterinarian's Office receives copies of the E.I.A. (Coggin's) test results for ALL horses tested in Louisiana regardless of which laboratory conducts the test or which type of microchip is implanted or whether a brand or tattoo is the permanent identification. If such a database was established (set up) (which would be easy and timely to do), then this information could be entered and double checked by a student worker or any other staff member. The backlog of this information shall be entered into the database.

Equine, mixed animal, and large animal veterinary practitioners shall be notified of the necessity (in fact, requirement) to submit identification information in a timely manner to the centralized database.

3. Recognize and utilize ALL available resources:

Many of the humane organizations assumed many responsibilities during the Katrina-Rita Hurricane Response effort but the following resources were underutilized:

1. **FEMA**
2. **Forest Service Incident Management Teams** may be requested to support many of the necessary ICS administrative/management functions, thus freeing the Incident Commanders and senior staff to focus on policy and operations.
3. **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)** falls under FEMA) – for various categories of volunteers, donations, and other support (donated trucking services to move hay, volunteer data-entry personnel, volunteer counselors for help lines, etc.)
4. **UPS** can provide logistic support teams upon request (management movement of donations and supplies).
5. **Americorps**--bright college-age volunteers able to stay for extended tours of duty (30 + days at a time).
6. **Animal control organizations.** The Animal Control Office is part of the Sheriff's Department, and is the Parish-level agency with regulatory authority and standard procedures for handling lost and stray animals of all species.
7. **Parish Cooperative Agricultural Extension Agents and Offices.**
8. **Individual Parish Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.**
9. **V-MAT?**
10. Other Potential Sources of Funding:
 - i. Homeland Security Grant money
 - ii. American Kennel Club (AKC)
 - iii. National Humane Groups

4. **Liability issues (in terms of State or Parish law or regulations) need to be addressed and clarified with local/State/Federal attorneys for future operational guidance, specifically** determining the disposition (foster care, adoption, and or humane disposal) for those stray rescued horses (small animals and cattle) that cannot be linked to the owner(s), or the owner(s) cannot be located or contacted within a reasonable period of time (generally defined in Parish Animal Control Regulations). Define the level of government (generally at the Parish level) with legal authority over stray animals. Need ruling from the Louisiana State Attorney General on the ownership rights and restrictions for:

1. Horses
2. Small companion animals
3. Ruminants
4. Exotic wildlife

- If: (1) Free Roaming
 (2) Transported across state lines
 (3) Rescued and unidentified livestock and small companion animals

The following policies and procedures, and the associated forms, applications, and contracts, must be developed prior to the next hurricane season:

1. Adoption
2. Foster Care
3. Euthanasia
4. Veterinary care limitations
5. Volunteers:
 1. To sign off on liability issues (in case of injury, accident, or damage to personal equipment)
 2. To document qualifications
 3. Whom to contact in case of an emergency
 4. Health and accident insurance data
 5. All volunteers shall receive a formal copy of the Policies and Procedures detailing (this will be covered with the state credentialing process):
 - i. Standards of Behavior
 - ii. Perimeters of their mission
 - iii. Grounds for dismissal/deaccreditation

An acceptable foster/adoption policy must be developed and adopted and be ready to be implemented and enforced.

5. **A central incident-specific telephone HOTLINE shall be established and pre-programmed on a contingency basis, and activated as soon as Area Command is activated:**
 1. Staffed and located in an area within the state (such as Alexandria), or in a secure area closer to the Area Command, in which telephone communication remains intact (may not be able to designate exact location in advance).
 2. The following automatic directives:
 - i. Horse rescue
 - ii. Cattle/Farm Animal rescue
 - iii. Small companion animal rescue
 - iv. Lost animals, unknown location (e.g., not specific directives for rescue at a specific location) => direct to web-links to posted databases, appropriate, and to crisis intervention counseling
 - v. Donations:
 1. small animal equipment and feed
 2. large animal equipment and feed
 3. monetary
 - vi. Crisis Intervention Counseling
 - vii. Complaints
 - viii. Persons wishing to volunteer their services for in animal rescue and sheltering.
 1. 1 week minimum in order to be useful; 2-3 weeks preferred
 2. Require credentials for anything other than feeding, cleaning, or data-entry assignments
 3. Where (what address) to report for in-processing; what desk/whom to report to. Web-site link to directions/street map, and other POC info (including a phone # with a live person).

4. Living conditions to expect (e.g., tent-camping, temp/humidity, need for bug spray, if laundry facilities and showers available, if meals provided or not, etc.)
- ix. Complaints – limited to animal rescue and shelter activities only; should be directed to other phone numbers for complaints about other response services.
- c. A template of responses shall be scripted for the volunteer telephone receptionists, who shall be recruited in sufficient numbers to address the volume of calls.
- d. A Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry staff member, or a Louisiana Veterinary Services staff member, or other appropriate (e.g., State Animal Response Team, L.S.U. School of Veterinary Medicine, USPHS or Army Veterinary Teams, Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, LSART) staff person shall be in attendance at all times to provide technical assistance to phone bank volunteers.

Utilize **Ham Radio Operators** as necessary for emergency communications between officials when electric power is interrupted, and consequently land lines and cell phones are non-functional. A relationship with local Ham Radio groups should be established in advance (during the Planning phase for 2006) through Louisiana VOAD.

Louisiana State University may be a resource for establishing a phone bank.

6. **Establishment of an Animal Preparedness, Rescue and Recovery WEBSITE** prior to the next hurricane season providing a forum for: THIS has been accomplished – www.LSART.org
 1. A **WEBMASTER** has been delegated – Dr. Carol Foil via LSART (www.LSART.org). LSU AgCenter may become involved as resources to do such are identified.
 2. OFFICIAL [Area Command-Public Information Officer (PIO) approved] news updates during an event, initially on a DAILY basis -- (provide situational awareness using excerpts from Sit-Reps, to de-bunk myths and rumors, explain professional licensing restrictions to out-of-state DVMs wishing to volunteer their services, and etc.)
 3. Instructions to pet and livestock owners on evacuation procedures. Mitigation information must be emphasized to ensure that the owners realize that they are responsible for the evacuation of their own pets/livestock.
 1. Individual animal identification is essential
 1. Microchips or Jockey Club tattoos for horses
 2. Microchips for small companion animals
 3. RFIPs or unique eartags for livestock
 2. Current Health Records/Maintenance:
 1. Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.) tests for horses
 2. Rabies vaccination for dogs and cats.
 4. Resources and links for pet and livestock owners wishing to prepare for disaster events.
 5. LSART and LRART organization charts and point of contact (POC) information.
 6. Instructions and links for making donations (generally limited to cash and livestock feed). Emphasize that all donations – other than financial contributions – need to be discussed in advance with a Logistics Chief to make sure that there is either a location to deliver them to directly or space in the warehouse to hold them securely. Explain whether “jumble boxes” of collected goods can be accepted – may wish to require a typed inventory list provided in advance by donor before accepting delivery.
 7. Pre-disaster preparations should be in place and communicated to the animal-owning public

via this website.

8. Regulatory information and news items concerning animal rescue and recovery, especially the requirement that all animal rescue and sheltering organizations must work under the State Animal Response Area Command to support the mission and goals of the OFFICIAL State and Local Response Partners (e.g., may not be self-directed or set their own separate priorities). This includes all aspects of animal rescue--including centralized dispatching and field rescue activities – triage and clinical care, sheltering, and acceptance of the State Animal Response Area Command demobilization timeline for them.
9. Publicize means to locate lost animals and procedures for the disposition of unclaimed animals.
10. It shall be publicized that rescued horses and cattle will not be transported out-of-state for stabling, foster-care, or sale, prior to being claimed by their owners.
11. Links must be made to all other animal and livestock association and organization websites that are prominent in the state (for example, the Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association. The Louisiana Equine Council, Louisiana Horseman’s Guide, etc.)
12. This website shall be publicized and relayed to national organizations and media.

7. Media and Public Relations

1. Each Incident Commander shall funnel all media inquiries, interviews, and press releases through the Public Information Officer (PIO) desk at the Louisiana State Animal Response Incident Command Center.
2. When the media approaches a rescue, shelter, working area, they shall be directed to the PIO for permission and direction.
3. Any requests for interviews by the media must be referred to the PIO, who will schedule with the appropriate spokespersons.
 - i. If the PIO isn’t familiar with the particular group, branch, livestock species (including academic and private rescue groups as well as government employees who are part of the Louisiana Animal Response Incident Command., being interviewed, the “expert” designated by the incident commander/Area Command shall accompany the PIO during the interview.
 - ii. A “pre-interview briefing,” attended by all interested parties (Section Chiefs, Area Command, etc.) is appropriate, when necessary.
4. Utilize the aforementioned (item #6) website, and centralized PIO system to post official information during an animal rescue and recovery event to prevent and dispel rumors and inaccuracies, reduce miscommunication, and support the official lead agencies charged with overall conduct of the response.
5. Failure to use the PIO system may result in immediate loss of credentials for the individual or group involved in unauthorized activities that serve to discredit the response partners.

8. Credentialing participants and volunteers:

1. Establish a means for documentation of training (out-of-state licensure by reciprocity of veterinarians and veterinary technicians, - Louisiana Veterinary Examining Board).

2. Providing references and resources for lay volunteers to obtain training or certification.
3. Conspicuous color-coded identification badges and date –specific photo-identification to identify credentialed individuals. It is very important that the date-specific photo-ID badge be the ONLY form of official identification; shirts, vests, ballcaps, or other uniforms should only serve to provide a visual means of ready recognition among team members; even these items should be considered controlled inventory that must be accounted for by each individual upon demobilization, due to ease of misappropriation by unscrupulous non-credentialed individuals in order to gain access to restricted areas.
4. Develop a protocol for immediately removing credentials of individuals violating Area Command standards of conduct or performance.
 - i. This should be covered in training of all staff, especially “emergent” (self-deployed) volunteers.
 - ii. Develop a protocol with Law Enforcement/ Security to coordinate for removal of such individuals from restricted areas and to alert on-duty guards to prohibit their re-entry – LDAF – Branding Commission
5. Emergent or self-deployed volunteers should be assigned to work on a team under the direct supervision of a supervisory staff person for an initial 5-7 day period.
6. A training workshop for interested parties should be held with the support of other national response groups or experience parties. DART training;

9. Anticipate need for SECURITY MEASURES:

1. Establish a secure perimeter through policy and procedures
 - i. Peripheral fencing and monitoring.
 - ii. Controlling avenues of entrance and egress (land, sea, and air if necessary)
 - iii. Use of local/state Law Enforcement officers, National Guard, or professional security contractors.
2. **Check points for credentials or certification.** Note: Officially-issued photo-ID badges with expiration dates should be the ONLY acceptable form of identification. T-shirts, ball-caps, and hand-lettered signs on the side of vehicles are not of themselves acceptable forms of identification for admittance to restricted areas.
3. Utilize resources:
 - i. Local police
 - ii. Parish Sheriff Departments
 - iii. National Guard
 - iv. Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry brand inspectors

10. Equipment and Accessories Necessary to Enhance Efficiency and Credibility of Operation:

1. Finance and Administration Section:

- i. A budget and a pre-disaster response account.
- ii. A means to funnel monetary donations into the cost of operations rather than having them sequestered in an account that cannot be accessed until months after the response.
- iii. Purchase vouchers, credit card, and/or ready cash availability.
- iv. Contractual agreements in place for some of the anticipated “necessities.”

2. Logistics Section:

- i. Stockpile anticipated equipment
- ii. Communication Equipment:
 1. Satellite telephones
 2. Walkie-talkies
 3. Cellular Telephones with direct connect capabilities
- iii. Office Equipment:
 1. Computers
 2. Printers

3. FAX machines
4. cords
- iv. Animal restraint equipment:
 1. Tack gear
 2. Ropes
 3. Portable panels
 4. Drugs
 5. Etc.
- v. Transportation:
 1. Trucks with hitches
 2. Livestock hauling equipment
 3. A vehicle for running errands
 4. Fuel resources
- vi. Electrical appliances:
 1. Generators
 2. Refrigerators (for vaccines, antibiotics, etc.)

11. Site Preparation for the Equine Rescue Group Stables

The equine shelter stables should be provided with a secure perimeter, security check-point(s), and a separate vehicle and pedestrian entrance with respect to the contiguous small animal shelter. Official ID badges and day passes for horse owners should be specifically coded to allow special access to the equine area.

Separate areas should be maintained for small animal, separate from equine, separate from farm animal, and separate from human shelters

12.A Working Group shall be established to further discuss and further define the protocol for future animal rescue and recovery efforts.

Working group & volunteers as of Sept 11, 2007:

Working Group:

LSART Leader: Dr. Renee Poirrier

Equine (branch or section leader) – Dr. Rebecca McConnico

Planning – Dr. Neil Henderson

Operations – Dr. Shannon Gonsoulin

Logistics – Open

Finance: Dr. Sonny Corley

Public Relations Officer/Liasson – Mr. Ky Mortensen

Farm Animal – LSU Ag Ctr – Drs. Christine Navarre & Jason Rountree; LSU-SVM – Dr. Bruce Olcott

Webmaster – Dr. Carol Foil

Additional Equine Team Volunteers:

Veterinary Medical director/supervisor – Dr. Ann Chapman

Shelter Supervisor/trainer – Ms Bonnie Clark

Volunteer coordinator – Ms Pam Leavy

Transport (Stock trailer) driver & Animal handling – La Tech Equine Rescue & Response Team

Animal Identification (equine) – Dr. Lee Ann Fugler, Dr. Ashley Stokes

Command center data mgt & phone center volunteer – Ms Catherine Koch, Julia Coutin

Web master – Dr. Carol Foil

Hay Hotline – Dr. Jason Rountree

Louisiana Extension Veterinarian – Dr. Christine Navarre

LSU Ag Ctr – Agents
Orleans Parish Sheriff
Rescue/evacuation – Dr. Dale Paccamonti, Dr. Mandi Lopez, & Dr. Sarah Lyle
Louisiana Tech Equine Support Team – Supervisor – Ms Aleta Overby
Southern region logistical support: LSU-SVM – Student Chapter of the AAEP/AABP
LSU-FETI (Fire & Emergency Training Institute)
Deep South Region Pony Clubs (River Riders PC)
Baton Rouge Police Department Mounted Unit
Southern Livestock & Supply Inc.
LSU-Equine Health Studies Program Emergency Response Team

Regional Equine LSART Leaders – see LSART website – Drs. Justin Gregg, Harry Kleinman, Jay Addison, Allison Barca, Dr. Chris Sullivan, Becky McConnico, Neil Henderson

LSART – Louisiana – Regional Representatives

RART District 1 Shreveport Area
Neil Henderson DVM - Large Animal
RART District 2 Monroe Area
Large Animal - Chris Sullivan DVM
RART District 3 Alexandria Area
Large Animal - Justin Gregg DVM
RART District 4 Lake Charles Area
Large Animal – Harry Kleinman, DVM
RART District 5 Lafayette Area
Renee Poirrier DVM
Shannon Gonsoulin DVM - Large Animal
RART District 6/9
Paula Drone DVM
Becky McConnico DVM – Equine
Bruce Olcott – Large Animal (Farm animal)
RART District 7 Covington Area
Large Animal - Jay Addison DVM
RART District 8 New Orleans Area
Large Animal - Allison Barca DVM