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Disaster Tips: Animals in Disasters

Pets and animals need to be included in your disaster plan since they depend on you for their safety and well-being. It is important to consider and prepare for your pets before disaster strikes. Consider the following preparedness measures:

1. If you must evacuate, do not leave pets behind—there is a chance they may not survive, or get lost before you return.
2. With the exception of service animals, pets are not typically permitted in emergency shelters for health reasons.
3. Find out before a disaster which local hotels and motels allow pets and where pet boarding facilities are located. Be sure to include some outside your local area in case local facilities are closed.
4. Know that most boarding facilities require veterinarian records to prove vaccinations are current.
5. Only some animal shelters will provide care for pets during emergency and disaster situations. They should be used as a last resort. Use friends and family or keep them with you.
6. Be sure your pet has proper identification tags securely fastened to the collar. A current photo of your pet will assist identification should it become necessary.
7. Make sure you have a secure pet carrier or leash for your pet—they may need to

be restrained during tense emergency situations.

8. Assemble a disaster kit for your pet. Include pet food, water, medications, veterinary records, litter box, can opener, food dishes, first aid kit, other supplies that may not be available at a later time, and an information sheet with pet's name and such things as behavior problems. Provide the kit to whoever assumes responsibility for your pet during a disaster.
9. Call your local emergency management office or animal shelter for further information.

Animals after Disasters

Wild or stray domestic animals can pose a danger during or after many types of disasters. Remember, most animals are disoriented and displaced, too. Do not corner an animal. If an animal must be removed, contact your local animal control authorities.

If any animal bites you, seek immediate medical attention. If a snake bites you, try to accurately identify the type of snake so that, if poisonous, the correct anti-venom can be administered. Do not cut the wound or attempt to suck the venom out.

Certain animals may carry rabies. Although the virus is rare, care should be taken to avoid contact with stray animals and rodents. Health departments can provide information on the types of animals that carry rabies in your area.

Rats may also be a problem during and after many types of disaster. Be sure to secure all food supplies and contact your local animal control authorities to remove any animal carcasses in the vicinity.

Contact your local emergency manager for more information on animals in disaster. The Humane Society of the United States can be reached at: 2100 L Street, NW, Washington DC, 20037, Attn; Disaster Services Program or by phone at 202-452-1100 or online at www.haus.org/disaster.

From the Program Coordinator's Desk by Gary Zulinski

The National Citizen Corps Conference was recently held in Denver, Colorado. It was three days of workshops and networking to discuss strategies for 2005 and beyond.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) hosted the conference July 27 – 29, 2004. Attendees shared best practices and critiqued implementation strategies as well as heard from subject matter experts from the programs highlighted by the Citizen Corps Initiative, including an overview of the newest Citizen Corps program, FireCorps. Sessions included engaging the private sector, handling the media, and reaching minority and special needs populations.

Michigan is now 12th in the nation for having the most councils and percentage of the state population served by those councils. There are 42 Councils serving 67% of the state population.

The CERT program is transitioning from FEMA to Office of Domestic Preparedness. Major league sports have been approached to endorse CERT. I have made contact with the security chiefs' of Comerica and Ford Field and both are interested in the CERT training for the event staff.

NVOAD Long-Term Recovery Manual Revision And Update On-Line

Art Jackson (Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and Church World Service), Chair, Recovery Committee; National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) announces the release of the revised and updated NVOAD Long-Term Recovery Manual. It is available on the NVOAD website and may be downloaded.

"We are delighted to offer this update for use by anyone involved in disaster response, from community, and faith-based recovery groups, to state and federal response agencies, and especially to our NVOAD members and partner groups."

"As many as 50 people reviewed and provided valuable input into the design and content of this document" said Jackson. "We strived for a comprehensive document, including the latest and newest information, to be immensely helpful to those who assist disaster struck communities respond appropriately in recovery."

Linda Reed Brown; Church World Service, feels the manual "offers an understandable overview of successful models for organizing Long-Term Recovery structures, along with considerable assistance in functional areas". Reed Brown adds, "A tool box section provides information and sample documents designed to enhance areas of activity and structure."

Bev Hoover, American Red Cross, who served on the revision task force with Jackson and Reed Brown, likes the appendix enhancements. "Sections on Donations, Volunteer and Case Management, the addition of Emotional, Spiritual and Mental Health Care in Long-Term Recovery, and the inclusion of Mitigation suggestions all serve to make this manual a valuable resource" said Hoover.

Cheryl Tyiska (National Organization for Victim Assistance), President of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster states, "The NVOAD Board of Directors applauds the fine work of the Recovery Committee and it's task force for producing a manual that we believe will enhance sustainable recovery efforts." Tyiska also noted "the inclusion of the VOAD movement as a partner in Long-Term Recovery serves as an encouragement and reminder to state, county and community VOADs of the need for their particular combined efforts in disaster response."

"Expectations are that the Manual will include a Spanish translation, and will be subject to regular updates and even expansion for a rapidly changing world of disaster recovery" Jackson concluded.

See <http://www.nvoad.org/documents.php> to download the Recovery Manual.

DHS Partnered With State and Locals to Protect Democratic National Convention

On May 27, 2003, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that the Democratic National Convention was designated a National Special Security Event (NSSE) establishing the U.S. Secret Service, now part of the Department of Homeland Security, as the lead federal agency in charge of the design and implementation of the operational security plan. Over the course of the past year, numerous federal, state and local agencies worked together to put in place an unprecedented level of security for the political convention. Working in partnership with state and local organizations, the Department of Homeland Security invested substantial resources and numerous personnel to ensure a safe and secure event for the Boston community and all delegates attending the convention.

United States Secret Service (USSS)

The U.S. Secret Service conducted comprehensive security assessments of all primary convention venues as well as hotels, hospitals, airports and other sites related to the convention.

U.S. Secret Service coordinated multiple interagency training exercises and tested operational security plans to verify command and control protocols and procedures.

For security reasons, specific methods of protection and preparation are not revealed; however, there is a tremendous amount of advance planning and coordination in the areas of venue, protection, airspace security, communication, and emergency equipment, credentialing and training. Secret Service began developing the security plan for the Democratic National Convention in June 2003.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

ICE Federal Protective Service (FPS) deployed approximately 200 personnel to the Democratic National Convention to ensure public safety and continuity of operations at federal facilities within the Boston area. This deployment also included Explosive Detector Dog teams, WMD/HAZMAT technicians, intelligence and undercover agents,

uniformed officers, bicycle and motorcycle officers, and emergency response teams.

ICE FPS provided two Mobile Command Vehicles (MCV) to serve as highly advanced communication centers for multiple law enforcement agencies. Each MCV was equipped with the capacity to operate as primary or backup radio base stations for all levels of law enforcement, monitor video cameras from U.S. government facilities, retrieve different types of closed circuit video signals and receive real-time aircraft video feeds.

ICE Office of Investigations will deploy a large number of Special Agents to the Democratic National Convention to support different security units assisting with convention activities and operations.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is the lead agency responsible for consequence management for all National Special Security Events and was in charge of providing emergency management coordination and any needed response and recovery assets.

FEMA supported state and local emergency management services and first responder units by pre-deploying more than 400 emergency personnel to serve with Emergency Response Teams, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, a Mobile Emergency Response Unit and an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force.

FEMA's Regional Operations Center functioned 24 hours each day and is equipped and prepared to support the Massachusetts and Boston Emergency Management Agencies as well as the Federal Response Plan.

U.S. Coast Guard

As the primary federal maritime law enforcement agency, Coast Guard personnel provided comprehensive waterside coverage on and over the water for the Democratic National Convention coordinating closely with state, local and other federal maritime law enforcement assets.

Numerous Coast Guard units and personnel were involved in this event including boat crews, law enforcement boarding teams, pilots and aircrew, support personnel and a wide variety of Coast Guard assets.

Coast Guard helicopters assisted in security zone surveillance and enforcement as well as air interdiction efforts.

The Coast Guard's Captain of the Port worked closely with commercial shipping interests and other waterway users to minimize the effects of security zone enforcement on recreational boating, commercial fishing and the free flow of commerce into and out of the Port of Boston.

The U.S. Coast Guard established a Waterside Security Unified Command Center in Boston to manage waterside security operations.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Customs and Border Protection provided inspectors to assist with overall security personnel as well as operate a mobile x-ray unit to examine suspicious packages entering a Convention facility.

Customs and Border Protection also provided x-ray equipment to scan commercial vehicles and delivery trucks such as food service providers as they entered the Democratic National Convention site.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

TSA conducted security and vulnerability assessments at affected commercial, general aviation and private airports as well as additional actions to enhance aviation security near Democratic National Convention sites.

TSA deployed approximately 100 personnel to sites at or near the Democratic National Convention to ensure security and communication capability between various modes of transportation.

DHS's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP)

During the Democratic National Convention, the Department's Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) provided timely sharing of any threat information, intelligence, situational awareness and operational information pertinent to the security of the event through the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). HSIN provided real-time connectivity and information sharing among all DHS components and State and Local partners. IAIP conducted several training courses in the Boston area to provide local law enforcement officials with additional skills and protective measures. Courses included Terrorism Awareness

and Prevention Training for liquefied natural gas facilities and rail transit systems, and Soft Target Awareness Training for owners, operators, and senior staff members of stadiums and arenas, places of worship, shopping malls, hotels and other large buildings.

IAIP worked with the state of Massachusetts Office of Public Safety to distribute radiation detection pagers to state and local law enforcement with operational responsibilities for the Convention.

Training was provided to law enforcement members by Infrastructure Protection staff preceding the event in coordination with the state homeland security adviser's office.

DHS Science and Technology (S&T)

In coordination with the U.S. Secret Service, S&T is deploying air-monitoring equipment to detect airborne biological pathogens during the duration of the Democratic National Convention.

Federal, State and Local

Additional federal, state and local agencies and departments dedicated security resources to the Democratic National Convention including:

Amtrak Police
Boston Fire Department
Boston Emergency Management Agency
Boston Emergency Medical Support
Boston Police Department
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
City of Cambridge Fire Department
City of Cambridge Police Department
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
Massachusetts National Guard
Massachusetts State Police
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. Attorney's Office
U.S. Capitol Police
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

U.S. Marshall Service
U.S. Park Police
U.S. Postal Police
U.S. Secret Service

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The Department of Homeland Security has developed a comprehensive nationwide framework for incident management that will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) incorporates best practices currently in use by incident managers at all levels. It was developed through extensive outreach to state, local and tribal officials, the emergency response community and the private sector.

The NIMS will be managed and maintained by the NIMS Integration Center (NIC), which was established by the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide strategic direction for and oversight of the system, including continuous refinement of the system and its components over the long term. The NIC will facilitate the development of a national system of guidelines, protocols and standards for NIMS implementation; training requirements, national-level training standards and assessment criteria for the various components of the NIMS; and compliance requirements and timelines for federal, state, local and tribal entities implementing the NIMS.

Implementation of the system is on a fast track - federal departments and agencies are required to make adoption of NIMS by state and local organizations a condition for federal preparedness assistance after Oct. 1, 2004. The NIC currently is defining compliance criteria for FY 2005; additional criteria for 2006 through 2008 also will be developed and disseminated to federal, state, local and tribal governments.

Information about NIMS, NIMS requirements and NIMS-related guidelines, tools and resources will be provided on an ongoing basis through a new Web page that has been established on the FEMA.GOV Web site at www.fema.gov/nims. In addition, a new online course is available to help first responders understand the concepts and principles underlying NIMS, and to begin incorporating NIMS into their own planning and policies. This course takes about

three hours to complete and may be found at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/is700.asp>. ODP and the NIC are eager to establish a dialogue with our state and local customers, who are urged to send their questions about NIMS implementation to NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov.

Red Cross Unable To Supply Enough Blood To Hospitals

WASHINGTON, Monday, July 12, 2004 —

Approximately 8,000* people are injured in car accidents each day. On average, emergency rooms use between four and forty units of blood to treat one car accident victim. American Red Cross blood inventory levels across the country are so low that patient care may be compromised.

In order to meet the needs of hospital patients throughout the nation, the American Red Cross strongly urges anyone who is eligible to donate blood to call 1-800 GIVE-LIFE as soon as possible. There is currently a critical blood shortage, and without more blood on the shelves, the American Red Cross cannot ensure that hospitals will have the blood they need to treat all patients. In fact, there are several hospitals that are already affected by this scarcity.

The beginning of July marked a turning point as blood supplies nationwide were at their lowest point of the year with most of the country falling below a two-day supply and many below a one-day supply of blood. Inventory today is even lower, and more importantly, the need for blood is climbing. In fact, the demand for blood products is higher than ever.

Every day, blood is needed in hospitals and emergency treatment facilities for patients with cancer and other diseases, for organ transplant recipients, and to help save the lives of accident victims. Giving blood is a safe process, is easy, and takes about an hour. Although about 60 percent of Americans are eligible to donate blood, only 5 percent do. Donations are critically needed; please act now by giving the gift of life.

“Right now, patients in hospitals across the country need you to roll up your sleeve and give the gift of lifesaving blood.,” said Dr. Linda Chambers, Senior Medical Officer, American Red Cross Biomedical Services. “Blood must be available at a moment’s

notice to help anyone in need. It will not be there without generous, volunteer blood donors like you.”

The Red Cross is appealing to all individuals to donate blood and is particularly interested in Type O negative blood as this is the universal blood donor type, meaning that it can be transfused to anyone in cases of emergencies. Again, anyone at least 17 years of age, weighing 110 pounds or more and feeling in good health may be eligible to donate blood. Please call your American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or log on to www.givelife.org and make an appointment today. Keep your commitment. Patients are counting on your generosity.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply (collecting more than 6 million units a year from volunteer donors) to patients in 3,000 hospitals across the country through its national network. Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. The Red Cross must collect blood donations each and every day to meet the needs of accident victims, cancer patients and children with blood disorders, and the organization works to accomplish this through its 36 Blood Services regions. Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or log onto www.givelife.org to schedule an appointment to donate blood or to receive information about sponsoring a blood drive. Marsha J. Evans is the President and CEO of the American Red Cross.

For more information about Michigan Citizen Corps, contact the Program Coordinator, Gary Zulinski at (517) 241-3867 or zulinskig@michigan.gov.

***We all have a role
in Hometown Security***

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety