

# MISSISSIPPI COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP)

## ESF #11 Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Annex

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### Coordinating and Primary Agencies

Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH)  
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC)  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH)

### Support Agencies

Mississippi State University (MSU)  
    College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)  
    Extension Service (ES)  
Mississippi Agriculture, Forestry, and Experiment Station (MAFES)  
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System  
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)  
Mississippi Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (MBVME)  
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)  
Mississippi Animal Control and Protection Association (MACPA)  
Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)  
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWF&P)  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)  
Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS)  
Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH)  
Mississippi Military Department (MMD)  
    Mississippi National Guard (MSNG)  
Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS)  
    Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS)  
Office of the Attorney General (AGO)  
Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Mississippi Development Authority (MDA)  
Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory (MSCL)  
Mississippi Commission on Volunteer Services (MCVS)

### Non-Governmental Support Agencies

Zookeepers Statewide  
American Red Cross (ARC)

**Non-Governmental Support Agencies cont.**

Salvation Army (SA)

Mississippi Volunteers Active in Disasters (MSVOAD)

**Federal Coordinating Agency**

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**Primary Agencies**

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Department of the Interior (DOI)

**Federal Support Agencies**

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Department of Defense (DOD)

Department of Energy (DOE)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Department of Labor (DOL)

Department of State (DOS)

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

General Service Administration (GSA)

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

United States Postal Service (USPS)

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

American Red Cross (ARC)

Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF)

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# MISSISSIPPI COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CEMP)

## ESF #11 Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Annex

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**1. INTRODUCTION.** Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 Animals, Agriculture and Natural Resources, supports local, state, and tribal entities, voluntary organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the private sector in managing animals, agriculture, and natural resources during domestic threats or in response to actual or potential incidents.

**a. Purpose.** The purpose of this ESF Annex is to provide and maintain an animal, agriculture, and natural resources support construct for the response and recovery missions following an emergency or a major disaster. The primary purpose of ESF #11 includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Coordinate the efforts to provide for all animals and crops affected by all-hazard disasters.

(2) Control and eradicate outbreaks of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease under the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) jurisdiction.

(3) Control and eradication of highly infective exotic plant diseases or economically devastating plant pest infestation.

(4) Safety and security of food, feed, seed, fertilizer, and pesticides, where it falls under Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) jurisdiction.

The success of this effort requires the coordination, pooling, and networking of both available and obtainable animal, agriculture, and natural resources assets provided by state agencies, local government entities, voluntary organizations, or other providers.

The term “obtainable” means other necessary resources that must be acquired through contract, lease, purchase, mutual aid agreements, or otherwise from outside the inventory or control of participating agencies. These resources may be in such forms as facilities, personnel, equipment, materials, supplies, consulting services, easements, rights-of-way, technical assistance, or others.

**b. Scope.** This Annex is used to respond to incidents where a threatened or actual incident exceeds local response capabilities. It is also to be used when Mississippi’s capabilities are exceeded, and a federal government response is requested. ESF#11 coordinates efforts to provide for animals, crops, and natural resources affected by all hazards in the following manner:

(1) **Animal Disaster Response.** Includes implementing an integrated county, municipal, state, tribal, and federal response to outbreaks of highly contagious and/or economically devastating diseases or disasters involving animals. Ensures, in coordination with ESF #8 (Public

Health and Medical Services) and ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services), that animal, veterinary, and wildlife issues are addressed. This response also ensures coordination with federal preparedness and response agencies.

**(2) Plant and Plant Pest Disaster Response.** Includes implementing an integrated county, municipal, state, tribal, and federal response to outbreaks of highly infective exotic plant diseases and/or economically devastating plant pest infestations, protection of seed, feed, fertilizer, pesticide, and field investigations. Ensures coordination with federal regulatory agencies.

**(3) Food Safety and Security.** Includes the inspection and verification of food safety aspects of slaughter and processing plants and products in distribution and retail sites under MDAC's jurisdiction, food samples taken for laboratory analysis, control of products suspected to be adulterated, plant closures, and ensures coordination with ESF #8 and federal regulatory agencies.

**(4) Protecting Natural and Historic Resources.** Includes appropriate response actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore state resources. This includes providing post-event baseline assessments of damages and providing technical assistance and resources to assess the impacts of response and recovery activities on natural and historic resources.

**(5) Providing for the Safety and Well-being of Household Pets.** ESF #11 supports ESF #5 Emergency Management, together with ESF #6, ESF #8, and ESF #9 Search and Rescue, to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of household pets.

If local government animal, agriculture, and natural resource capabilities or resources become overwhelmed and unable to meet emergency or major disaster needs, ESF #11 will be activated to support those affected. This support will be provided in accordance with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and the National Response Framework (NRF).

If federal ESF #11 is activated to assist local, tribal, and state governments, the primary agency for the overall coordination of federal resources is the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), in cooperation with the US Department of the Interior (DOI).

**2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.** This section describes how ESF #11 relates to other elements of the whole community.

**a. Individuals/Households.** Individuals are responsible for knowing the risks they face and developing emergency plans for their families that include emergency preparedness for the animals in their household, whether those animals are owned for pleasure or commercial purposes. To the extent possible, during an incident, individuals should carry out their emergency plans in

accordance with responder instructions.

During an incident, to the extent practical, animal evacuation and sheltering should be conducted in conjunction with human evacuation and sheltering efforts; animals should be sheltered with or near their owners. Service animals are not considered pets and may not be separated from individuals with a disability or other access and functional needs. They should be permitted anywhere the public goes. Owners should provide food, water, husbandry, and exercise for their animals in emergency shelters.

**b. Local, State, and Tribal Governments.** Local, state, and tribal governments are primarily responsible for the animals, agriculture, and natural resources within their jurisdictions.

Typically, at the local level, the animal control agency is the authority that has jurisdiction for non-disease emergency management issues within a given community. MDAC and MBAH, through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), coordinate response activities at the state level.

ESF #11, in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWF&P), the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), or MEMA, coordinates emergency management issues for marine, wild animal (non-domesticated or farm), and threatened or endangered species response and recovery at the state level.

Animal and agricultural health responses are conducted in collaboration and cooperation with state authorities and private industries to ensure continued human nutrition, animal, plant, and environmental health, and support of economy and trade.

Inspection of meat, poultry, and processed egg products; production and import facilities; and distributors during a response may occur with local, tribal, and state authorities and the regulated industry, if needed, to ensure public health and support the economy and trade.

During an animal, agricultural, or natural resource emergency, actions are guided by and coordinated with local, state, and tribal emergency preparedness and response officials, homeland security officials, and existing state and federal regulations, policies, and procedures.

ESF #11, through the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), MEMA, and other state agencies, will coordinate or provide technical assistance when requested and mission assigned to address natural, cultural, or historic resource emergency management. State or tribal entities affected will designate Emergency Coordinating Officers (ECO) to coordinate with the ESF #11. These ECOs serve as the principal points of contact with ESF #11 ECO at the SEOC.

**c. Private Sector/Non-Governmental Organizations.** Most animal and agriculture emergency response resources and assets are owned or controlled by the private sector and NGOs. Animal emergency management has always been a whole community effort, blending emergency management and animal handling expertise. At the local level, veterinarians, farmers, animal control agencies and humane organizations, breeders, wildlife rehabilitators, and others make up the animal infrastructure within a community. These entities should be encouraged to collaborate with the government to meet emergency animal needs in their communities. Many states have integrated animal response capabilities, such as county and/or state animal response teams, veterinary medical reserve corps, or similarly named entities.

Businesses where animals are integral to operations (such as production agriculture, zoos/exhibitors, research facilities, breeders, animal welfare agencies/sanctuaries, and veterinary hospitals), should be encouraged to have contingency plans in place for animals housed in the facility in the event of a disaster or emergency. Nonprofit networks can provide information on contingency planning for veterinary facilities, zoos, and other congregate animal facilities.

Transportation and distribution of food supplies within the affected area are arranged by local, state, tribal, federal, and voluntary organizations. Inspection of meat, poultry, and processed egg products, production and import facilities, and distributors during a response may be conducted with local, state, and tribal authorities and the regulated industry, if needed, to ensure public health and support economy and trade.

**3. CORE CAPABILITIES AND ACTIONS.** This section outlines the ESF roles aligned to core capabilities. The following table lists the response core capabilities that ESF #11 most directly supports, along with the related ESF #11 actions. Though not listed in the table, all ESFs, including ESF #11, support the Core Capabilities of Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning:

**NOTE:** Many activities are performed under statutory authority; mission assignments are needed to utilize ESF #11 capabilities listed when the mission exceeds functions performed under statutory authority, such as activities related to household pets and service animals.

Core Capability	ESF #11 – Animals, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Mass Care Services	<p><b>Animal (including Household Pets and Service Animals) Mass Care and Emergency Assistance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports ESF #6 to coordinate an integrated state and federal response to meet animals’ mass care and emergency assistance needs, including household pets and service animals and their owners.</li> <li>• Facilitates whole community and multi-agency coordination</li> </ul>



<b>Core Capability</b>	<b>ESF #11 – Animals, Agriculture and Natural Resources</b>
<b>Mass Care Services cont.</b>	<p>with NGO agencies for animal response activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise to local, tribal, state, and federal governments and NGOs.</li> <li>• Coordinates need assessments for animals, including household pets and service animals, and animal response needs and activities, including technical support for evacuation and emergency animal sheltering.</li> </ul>
<b>Critical Transportation</b>	<p><b>Safety and Defense of the Supply of Meat, Poultry, and Processed Egg Products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure meat, poultry, and processed egg products in commerce are safe under state jurisdiction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supply Chain Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petroleum inspections to ensure quality and quantity.</li> <li>• Weights and Measures accuracy in scales in private industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health and Medical</b>	<p><b>Animal and Agricultural Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to animal and agricultural health emergencies under MBAH and MDAC statutory authority.</li> <li>• Coordinate with ESF #8 on the management of zoonotic diseases.</li> <li>• Coordinate with ESF #8 to ensure that animal/veterinary health issues (including disease management and medical management) are supported.</li> <li>• Collaborate with ESF #8, Health and Human Services (HHS), and USDA to deliver an effective “one health” response that integrates human, animal, and environmental health.</li> <li>• Serve as the state lead on animal (including zoonotic) diseases.</li> <li>• Coordinates with ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) on the removal of debris (carcasses).</li> <li>• Safety and Defense of the Supply of Meat, Poultry, and Processed Egg Products:</li> <li>• Ensure regulated facilities can provide safe meat, poultry, and processed egg products under state jurisdiction.</li> </ul>

#### **4. POLICIES.**

##### **a. General.**

(1) Through the SEOC, MEMA will maintain overall direction, control, and coordination of the response and recovery efforts through coordination with all participating agencies, including federal agencies tasked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

(2) MBAH and MDAC will appoint ESF #11 lead ECOs to work with MEMA, other state agencies, and federal agencies in an emergency animal, agriculture, and natural resources capacity at the SEOC or virtually, incident dependent.

(3) MDWF&P and MDMR will appoint ECOs, incident dependent, to work with the ESF #11, MEMA, other state agencies, and federal agencies in an emergency animal and natural resources capacity at the SEOC or virtually.

(4) MDAH will appoint ECOs, incident dependent, to work with the ESF #11, MEMA, other state agencies, and federal agencies in an emergency natural, cultural, and historic resources capacity at the SEOC or virtually.

(5) Each supporting agency is responsible for managing its respective assets and resources after receiving direction from the primary ESF #11 agency for the incident.

(6) The organizations providing support for each incident will coordinate with appropriate ESFs and adhere to supporting annexes to ensure the proper use and measures are in place to protect the health and safety of all workers.

(7) If state emergency animal, agriculture, and natural resource assets have been exhausted or are expected to be exhausted before meeting the demand, ESF #11 ECO will recommend that assistance be requested from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or from FEMA.

(8) The ESF #11 ECOs will coordinate from the SEOC or virtually, incident-dependent. However, a catastrophic event may require establishing an additional forward coordination element at a facility near the impacted area.

(9) ESF #11 planning will consider county and municipal animal, agriculture, and natural resources policies and plans used to control the movement of relief personnel, equipment, and supplies, as well as locally established priorities for determining the precedence of movement.

(10) To ensure the orderly flow of resources, state agencies should coordinate all transportation movements with ESF #1 (Transportation).

**b. Animal Disaster Response Policies.**

(1) MBAH is the primary agency for addressing animal disaster issues. The MBAH coordinates local, state, and federal animal response activities such as medical care, sheltering, evacuation, rescue, temporary confinement, procuring feed, food and water, animal identification, carcass disposal, and returning animals to owners when ESF#11 is activated. The State Veterinarian is MBAH's primary point of contact.

(2) MDWF&P and MDMR will support MBAH, as necessary, for addressing animal disaster issues, with particular emphasis on marine, wild animals, and threatened or endangered species.

(3) The State Veterinarian will establish quarantines, permit requirements, and holding periods for animals. These requirements are based on many factors, including disease epidemiology, species affected, scope and type of disaster, animals' health, and temperament.

(4) Euthanasia of animals will be done humanely and at the direction of incident veterinarians.

(5) Disposal methods for infected or potentially infected/contaminated carcasses and plant material are chosen for their effectiveness in stopping pathogen spread and for their minimal impact on the environment.

(6) The US Secretary of Agriculture can release funds from contingency or program accounts as needed to indemnify producers for animals and suspect animal and plant products seized or facilities held to control the disease and pay the operational costs of eradicating disease and plant pests.

(7) Mississippi may request that the US Secretary of Agriculture declare an Extraordinary Emergency to pay compensation and allow for the use of federal authorities to act within Mississippi if the state cannot take appropriate action to control and eradicate the disease or plant pest.

**c. Plant and Plant Pest Policies.** MDAC is the primary agency addressing the protection of seed, feed, fertilizer, and pesticide and plant disease and plant pest field investigations.

**d. Food Safety and Security Policies.**

(1) MDAC is the primary agency for agricultural food safety and security issues. MDAC coordinates local, state, and federal agricultural food safety response activities, including inspecting and verifying food safety aspects of slaughter and meat processing plants and retail sites under the department's jurisdiction. The Commissioner of Agriculture is the primary point of contact.

(2) MDAC coordinates with ESF#8 and federal regulatory agencies as appropriate.

**e. Weights and Measures Policies.** The MDAC is the primary agency for weights and measuring devices and the quality and quantity of petroleum products.

**f. Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resource Policies.**

(1) MDAH, working through the ESF #11 ECO, is the primary agency coordinating appropriate response actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore state cultural and historical resources.

(2) This includes coordinating post-event baseline assessments of damages and providing technical assistance and resources to assess the impacts of response and recovery activities on state resources.

**5. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.**

**a. Assumptions.**

(1) Existing state telecommunications infrastructure will provide the primary means for state government communications.

(2) Primary agencies (including MEMA) and support agencies will perform tasks under their authority, as applicable, in addition to missions received under the authority of MEMA.

(3) Through their county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), local officials will be encouraged to be self-sufficient during the first 2–3 days of a disaster.

(4) Local officials and managers will channel their requests for assistance where possible through county EOCs.

(5) Most emergencies and disasters involve damage to property to some extent. Roads,

bridges, public utility systems, public and private buildings, homes, and other facilities will have to be inspected, either cleared for use, reinforced, quarantined, or demolished to ensure safety.

(6) Before requesting EMAC or federal assets, all available local, private, semi-private, and state resources will be deployed through the Statewide Mutual Assistance Compact (SMAC) to the maximum extent possible.

(7) State or federal assistance may be required to identify and deploy resources from outside the affected area to ensure a timely, efficient, and effective response and recovery.

(8) Numerous volunteering entities, both governmental and non-governmental, may mobilize personnel, supplies, and equipment to affected areas with neither coordination nor communication with the SEOC or deployed elements.

**b. General Concepts.**

(1) MEMA will keep all responsible agencies informed of impending conditions (incident developments, weather, hazardous materials, or other events) that would cause them to assume a readiness posture for activating the SEOC for possible deployment to a forward area of operation or other activity.

(2) MDAC and MBAH coordinate state planning, preparation, activation, and demobilization of ESF#11 response activities.

(3) MDAC and MBAH organize and coordinate the capabilities and resources of state government to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, expertise, and other support for Incidents of State Significance utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

(4) Once ESF#11 is activated, the state response is coordinated by MDAC and MBAH. Support agency representation is based on the assistance needed for the specific incident. The coordinators will convene a conference call with appropriate support agencies and non-state partners to assess the situation and determine appropriate actions. The agency or agencies then alert supporting organizations and request they provide representation.

(5) ESF#11 provides an integrated response to natural disasters involving animals; outbreaks of highly contagious and/or economically devastating animal/zoonotic (i.e., transmitted between animals and people) diseases, outbreaks of highly infective exotic plant diseases, and/or economically devastating plant or animal pest infestations in the state and/or region.

(6) ESF#11 ensures the safety and security of the state's commercial food supply under

state jurisdiction (e.g., meat, poultry, and egg products) following a potential or actual Incident of State Significance. It mitigates the incident(s) effect on all affected parts of the State population and environment.

(7) ESF#11 ensures the safety and security of feed, seed, fertilizer, and pesticide supplies necessary for agricultural production. MDAC shall offer expertise fitting of its legal authorities.

(8) When ESF #11 is activated, ESF #5 and other appropriate support ESFs will be activated to support the event. ESF #11 will continually assess and develop action plans for ESF #5 to ensure all supporting agencies function appropriately and in a coordinated manner.

(9) Local officials must conduct an initial damage assessment to determine the severity and magnitude of property damage in quantity, community impact, and dollar amount. These results will be reported to the SEOC, where appropriate response actions will be initiated. Where possible, such communication should be routed through the jurisdiction's county EOC.

(10) MEMA will provide public information to evacuees through the SEOC Joint Information Center (JIC), Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB), and commercial broadcast media.

(11) Working in coordination with the SEOC and the State Warning Point (SWP), the JIC will release special weather statements and warnings provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) to emergency workers and the general population. These releases will be made through the normal ESF #15 (External Affairs) release networks, SWP AtHoc mass notifications, and additionally provided to emergency work sites, staging areas, and other incident support sites as needed.

(12) MEMA coordinates EMAC with other states for the augmentation of resources.

## 6. ORGANIZATION.

**a. State Emergency Operations Center.** In an incident or a major declared state emergency, the ESF #11 ECO or the ESF #11 Emergency Coordination staff will support the SEOC virtually or take up positions at the SEOC, situationally dependent. A current list of agency emergency notifications is maintained at this facility.

**b. SEOC Emergency Point of Contact.** The MEMA SWP within the SEOC operates 24/7/365. Operations Officers and an Operations Section Watch Officer staff the SWP. Emergency contact info is as follows:

**(1) SWP Operations Officer(s):**

(a) **Phone:** (601) 933-6876, 6877, 6878 or (800) 222-6362

(b) **E-mail:** [commo1@mema.ms.gov](mailto:commo1@mema.ms.gov), [commo2@mema.ms.gov](mailto:commo2@mema.ms.gov), or [commo3@mema.ms.gov](mailto:commo3@mema.ms.gov)

**(2) Operations Section Watch Officer:**

(a) **Phone:** (601) 933-6671 or (800) 222-6362

(b) **E-mail:** [watchdesk@mema.ms.gov](mailto:watchdesk@mema.ms.gov)

**c. SEOC Sections.** The SEOC maintains the four standard ICS sections:

**(1) Operations Section.** The Operations Section establishes strategy (approach methodology, etc.) and specific tactics/actions to accomplish the goals and objectives set by Command. Operations coordinates and executes strategy and tactics to achieve response objectives;

**(2) Planning Section.** The Planning Section coordinates support activities for incident planning and contingency, long-range, and demobilization planning. Planning supports Command and Operations in processing incident information and coordinates information activities across the response system;

**(3) Logistics Section.** The Logistics Section supports Command and Operations in their use of personnel, supplies, and equipment. Performs technical activities required to maintain the function of operational facilities and processes;

**(4) Finance and Administration Section.** The Finance and Administration Section supports Command and Operations with administrative issues and tracks and processes incident expenses. This includes such issues as licensure requirements, regulatory compliance, and financial accounting.

See the SEOC Operations Section Chief (OSC), Watch Officer, or an SEOC Branch Director for a roster of incident-assigned Section Chiefs.

**d. SEOC Human Services Branch.** The SEOC maintains three branches within the Operations Section, Infrastructure, Emergency Services, and Human Services, each led by a Branch Director. The Human Services Branch Director position is a full-time MEMA Emergency

Management Specialist. The Branch Director coordinates the activities of ESF #6 and ESF #11 and is the first line of support for assigned ECOs. The Human Services Branch Director monitors and oversees branch administrative and incident activities, WebEOC actions, SITRoom updates, branch adherence to timelines and requirements, supports ECOs with incident coordination, and conducts SEOC staff briefings, as needed.

Human Services Branch Director desk contact information: Phone (601) 933-6764, e-mail: [humanservices@mema.ms.gov](mailto:humanservices@mema.ms.gov).

**e. Mississippi Business Emergency Operations Center.** The Mississippi Business Emergency Operations Center (MSBEOC), commonly called BEOC, provides disaster-specific communications from MEMA to industry associations and registered members to coordinate private-sector businesses. It connects those needing resources with Mississippi private-sector resource providers during response and recovery from an emergency or disaster.

For more information on the BEOC, e-mail the BEOC Director at [msbeoc@mema.ms.gov](mailto:msbeoc@mema.ms.gov) or go to the dedicated JIC SITRoom listed below in section 6.g.

**f. Joint Information Center.** The MEMA JIC coordinates critical emergency information, crisis communications, and public affairs functions. The JIC is the central point of contact for all agency Public Information Officers (PIOs) and news media.

For more information on the JIC or to contact the JIC Director, e-mail [memainfo@mema.ms.gov](mailto:memainfo@mema.ms.gov) or go to the dedicated JIC SITRoom listed below in section 6.g.

**g. SEOC Situation Rooms.** MEMA developed the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Situation Rooms (SITRooms) to provide stakeholders with a virtual EOC platform to utilize during normal operations or an incident. The SITRooms provide excellent situational awareness for both SEOC and non-SEOC participants. The SITRooms have individual pods with attendee lists, chat capability, current incident priorities and objectives, current operational schedule and meeting times (battle rhythm), downloadable documents and maps, useful links, and video capability.

The event SITRooms utilized by the SEOC for a given event will use one of the following URLs:

<https://share.dhs.gov/msema> (Daily SITRoom: Level IV Normal Operations)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident> (General Incident SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident1> (Severe Weather/Flooding SITRoom)



<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident2> (Hurricane/Tropical Storm SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-incident3> (Other Emergency/Earthquake SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mema-uas> (Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] UAS SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/mrp> (Radiological SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/jicroom> (JIC SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/ms-emas> (EMAC SITRoom)

<https://share.dhs.gov/msbeoc/> (MSBEOC SITRoom)

Many of the above-listed SITRoom may not be active during “blue-sky” or non-event periods. The active SITRooms will be published via mass notification before or during an event/incident.

#### **h. Animal Disaster Response.**

(1) When there is an outbreak of highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, carcass disposal issues, or if small animals/large animals/poultry/wildlife are affected by natural disasters, the MBAH will provide primary oversight and direction.

(2) As needed, ESF #11 designated ECOs and supporting agencies will integrate and collaborate with local, state, tribal, and federal emergency operation centers.

(3) The State Veterinarian or his designee and the Federal Area Veterinarian in Charge may establish a Joint Operations Center (JOC) to serve as the focal point for coordinating the animal disease management decision-making process.

#### **i. Plant and Plant Pests Disaster Response.**

(1) In an outbreak of highly infective exotic plant disease or an economically devastating plant pest infestation; protection of seed, feed, fertilizer, and pesticide; and field investigations, the MDAC Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) assumes primary responsibility.

(2) The State Entomologist and/or the Director of the BPI serve as the state’s principal point of contact with the Federal government.

(3) The state activates its state, regional, or local EOCs, as needed, as the state’s base of

operations for interfacing with local governments and the private sector.

(4) The State Entomologist and/or the Director of the BPI shall establish a JOC, the focal point for coordinating the disease or pest management decision-making process.

**j. Food Safety Response.** For an incident involving inspection and verification of food safety aspects of slaughter and processing plants and retail sites, laboratory analysis of food samples, control of products suspected to be adulterated, or plant closures, MDAC Bureau of Regulatory Services (BRS) assumes primary responsibility as applicable under legal authority.

**k. Administrative and Logistical Support.** All participating ESF #11 agencies are expected to:

(1) Coordinate their support with the ESF #11 coordinator.

(2) ESF #11 coordinator will coordinate efforts with the SEOC through the Human Services Branch Director.

(3) Locate, identify, and set up their operational work areas and maintain logistical support for them.

(4) Maintain active accounts and have a working knowledge of WebEOC, the SEOC Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Situation Room (SITRoom), and Crisis Track.

(5) Attend and support briefings and other coordination meetings, whether at the SEOC, via telecommunications (HSIN SIT Room, ZOOM, or Microsoft Teams), or elsewhere.

(6) Maintain operational logs, messages, requests, and other appropriate documentation for future reference.

(7) Maintain maps, displays, status reports, and other information not included in the ESF #5 operations.

(8) Update the SEOC Human Services Branch Director on changes to the ESF #11 ECO Roster.

## 7. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIONS.

**a. Coordinating Agency.** As the Coordinating Agency for ESF #11, MBAH and MDAC are responsible for, but not limited to the following:

**(1) Preparedness (All).**

(a) Provide a list of ESF #11 Emergency Coordination staff that will carry out the CEMP virtually or at the SEOC.

(b) In conjunction with MEMA and other support agencies, develop and maintain a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for this ESF #11 Animals, Agriculture and Natural Resources Annex.

(c) MEMA will assist in the development and maintenance of the ESF #11 SOP.

(d) Maintain access to all SEOC personnel, systems, and documentation, including but not limited to the Infrastructure Branch Director, WebEOC, HSIN SITRooms, CEMP and associated Annexes and Appendices, the MEMA Response Framework, and all SEOC policies and procedures.

(e) Ensure all agencies with ESF #11 responsibility have SOPs in place to perform appropriate levels of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to the event. Agencies will have completed mitigation and preparedness activities before the initiating event.

(f) Ensure ESF #11 elements are familiar with and operate according to the Incident Command System (ICS).

(g) Train and exercise ESF #11 personnel.

(h) Designate an ECO, alternate ECO, PIO, and an ESF #11 liaison (as necessary) to report to the SEOC or support virtually.

**(2) Preparedness – MDAC.**

(a) Support the development of volunteer organizations, such as the Cattlemen's Association, Equine Associations, Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council, Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association, and such affiliations for the protection and emergency care of livestock, poultry, crops, and security of feed, seed, fertilizer, and pesticide supplies.

(b) Coordinate with MBAH for the procurement of feed and hay supplies for animal health and medical facilities.

(c) Provide communication and coordinating efforts with USDA and other federal agencies and governments of other states and countries.

(d) Assist in providing a risk assessment if the foreign or emerging animal disease or plant pest cannot be isolated and confined.

(e) Work with Farm Services Administration (FSA) and Mississippi Agriculture Statistics to determine the economic impact of crop and animal damage in a disaster.

(f) Conduct inspections and quality assurance reviews on state-licensed animal slaughtering/processing plants slaughtered animals.

(g) Provide personnel and equipment resources for surveillance, roadblocks, transportation, map production, public information, Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping, security, etc.

(h) Coordinate with MBAH, the food industry, and producers regarding any limitations imposed on the movement of agricultural products, regulated articles, or vehicles.

(i) Assist with foreign or emerging animal disease surveillance at state-inspected slaughter plants.

**(3) Preparedness – MBAH.**

(a) Serve as the primary agency and authority for animal disease control issues and operations.

(b) Provide guidelines and direct response for foreign and emerging animal diseases and animals affected by natural disasters.

(c) Direct operations of the Mississippi Animal Response Team (MART).

(d) Prepare and distribute Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) or other information and training for MART.

(e) Develop SOGs for emerging, contagious, and foreign animal disease outbreaks with emergency management and animal health officials.

(f) Provide support, expertise, and personnel for animal response-related actions such as credentialing, surveillance, permitting, inspections, cleaning and disinfection, decontamination, animal depopulation, carcass disposal, and movement restriction of personnel and vehicular traffic.

ESF #11 Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Annex to MS CEMP

(g) Provide information to the public through ESF #15/JIC or PIO about animals in disasters.

(h) Provide training related to animal response activities.

(i) Coordinate with ESF#11 Support Agencies.

(j) Coordinate with MDAC for the procurement of feed and hay supplies for animal facilities.

(k) Appoint an ECO(s) for animal disaster emergency preparedness who may represent the State Veterinarian in the state or local EOC.

(l) Coordinate with the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and Mississippi State University/College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU/CVM) to educate, train, and recruit animal health responders for ESF#11 activation.

(m) Work with support agencies to prepare, respond, mitigate, and recover from incidents involving animal emergencies and foreign and contagious emerging diseases of animals.

(n) Supply technical assistance and subject-matter expertise to provide for the safety and well-being of household pets.

(o) Work with support agencies and local officials to identify facilities and the appropriate contacts to shelter domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife in the event of a protracted emergency or disaster.

(p) Support private veterinarians in rebuilding local infrastructure.

(q) Support local shelters and animal control agencies in rebuilding efforts.

**(4) Pre-Incident (All).**

(a) ESF #11 will develop and maintain alert and notification procedures for key animals, agriculture, and natural resource officials supporting ESF #11. MEMA will assist ESF #11 in maintaining the alert and notification list for other agencies supporting ESF #11.

(b) Provide an ECO (and alternate 24-hour coverage if necessary) and ESF #11 liaison to the SEOC.

(c) Notify support agency and partners on activation as needed and minimal staffing requirements.

(d) Conduct preliminary staff meetings with the complete ESF #11 team assigned to establish strategies for approaching incident(s).

**(5) General Incident Response (All).**

(a) Upon activation of ESF #11, ECOs will communicate pertinent information to all ESF #11 members. Such information will be a complete orientation of the ESF #11 mission, purpose, and scope of work.

(b) Provide information to the SEOC for dissemination to the public and private agencies as needed.

(c) Ensure adequate communications are established and maintained.

(d) Obtain an initial situation and damage assessment through established intelligence procedures.

(e) Sets mission objectives for preventing, responding to, controlling, and recovering from situations and incidents that may be detrimental to the health and welfare of humans and animals.

(f) Address the potential for outbreaks in multiple states and provide guidance to the unaffected area(s) in taking immediate precautionary measures within their borders.

(g) If a possible intentional pathogen release is reported, as the situation warrants, MDAC or MBAH notifies and coordinates with the appropriate law enforcement agencies at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels.

(h) If criminal activity is suspected in connection with an outbreak, MBAH and/or MDAC works closely with the responding veterinary or plant diagnostics staff to ensure the proper handling and packing of any samples and their shipment to the appropriate research laboratory for testing and forensic analysis. MDAC conducts any subsequent criminal investigation jointly with appropriate local, state, tribal, or federal law enforcement agencies. If the outbreak is determined to be a criminal but not a terrorist act, MDAC assumes primary state responsibility for a law enforcement response.

(i) If a terrorist act is suspected in connection with an outbreak, MBAH or MDAC

notifies the USDA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

- (j) Coordinate the distribution of assets as needed.
- (k) Maintain a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records, and reports.
- (l) Provide Situation Report (SITREP) and Incident Action Plan (IAP) input via WebEOC and appropriate ICS Forms, according to the established operational timeline, event-specific.
- (m) Coordinate the efforts through a liaison to ESF #5.
- (n) Assist in gathering and providing information to ESF #5 for establishing priorities.
- (o) Assist in compiling and providing information to ESF #15/JIC for press releases.
- (p) Provide damage assessment support.
- (q) Assist in evaluating and presenting economic issues (indemnity, reimbursement, damage assessments, etc.).
- (r) Support retail and production infrastructure to ensure a rapid return to business;
- (s) Participate in post-incident assessments of public works and infrastructure to help determine critical needs and potential workloads.
- (t) MEMA may ask ESF #11 to provide personnel to the Joint Field Office (JFO) to work closely with their federal counterparts at the established JFO(s) and in the field.

**(6) Animal Disaster Incident Response (MBAH).** The MBAH will:

- (a) Serve as the lead agency to coordinate with other ESF #11 agencies for addressing emergency care for animals, including livestock, horses, poultry, fish, zoo animals, laboratory and research animals, companion animals, and wildlife.
- (b) Coordinate with MDWF&P and MDMR, as needed, for marine, wild animal, threatened, or endangered species response support.
- (c) Develop, train, and activate the MART. MART is the official response team for ESF #11. MART includes trained volunteers and local, state, tribal, and federal employees to

respond to disasters involving animals. All deployed MART members must have NIMS/ICS training and be credentialed through the MBAH or MEMA.

**(d)** Provide information and recommendations for incidents involving outbreaks of highly contagious/zoonotic animal diseases, highly infective exotic plant diseases, and/or economically devastating plant pest infestations.

**(e)** Assign veterinary personnel to perform veterinary preventive medicine activities, assist in delivering animal health care to injured or abandoned animals, conduct field investigations, provide technical assistance and consultation, and other activities as requested.

**(f)** Coordinate efforts to evacuate, transport, shelter, and capture animals.

**(g)** Assist counties to identify barns, pastures, kennels, etc., appropriate for sheltering and/or confining animals.

**(h)** Coordinate with local agencies to establish a system to register identification data to reunite animals with their owners.

**(i)** Assist local authorities and animal organizations in setting up temporary and pet-friendly shelters as needed.

**(j)** Obtain situational awareness animal data from shelter facilities and confinement areas identified before, during, and after the disaster.

**(k)** Coordinate with other ESFs and local agencies when agriculture disease outbreaks may affect the health or movement of people.

**(l)** Ensure that information is provided on the location of animal shelters and other animal-related matters before, during, and after the disaster through WebEOC and/or ESF #15/JIC.

**(m)** Coordinate with ESF #8 to identify, prevent, and control animal diseases with public health significance.

**(n)** Support ESF #8 by assisting with the sheltering of pets of persons in Special Medical Needs Shelters.

**(o)** Coordinate with ESF #6 to ensure animal sheltering in disasters is addressed.

**(p)** Work with the MVMA and CVM on need assessment and distribution of donated



funds.

(q) Coordinate with the MS USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge in the event of a foreign animal disease (FAD) or large-scale agriculture disease outbreak.

(r) Coordinate with ESF #3 to remove and properly dispose of animal waste and dead animals.

(s) Request Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) as needed.

(t) Assist in the relocation and repatriation of lost pets and livestock.

(u) Interface with the local, state, and federal Governments to provide medical aid, assistance, and relief to stricken animals and supervise the prevention and control of diseases.

(v) Coordinate activities of support and volunteer organizations during an animal disaster event.

(w) Coordinate with law enforcement to safeguard drugs, prescription items, personnel, and sheltered animals.

(x) Provide damage assessment support.

(y) Direct resources as needed.

**(7) Plant and Plant Pest Disaster Incident Response (MDAC):** The MDAC will:

(a) Coordinate response activities within local, state, and tribal jurisdictions as necessary.

(b) Contact support agency representatives (public, institutional, and private entities) with instructions to alert their contacts throughout the state to ensure that all necessary personnel are on standby. Recruit and train the workforce and procure other resources as needed to conduct pest monitoring, pest identification, pest containment, and eradication activities.

(c) Immediately contact US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials and other consultants and researchers to obtain the registration and/or Section 18 approval of the needed pesticides to control the exotic pests.

(d) Work jointly with the Director of BPI, State Entomologist, and USDA/Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)/Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) staff of the regional office to establish emergency operations center(s) as needed within 24 hours of the detection of an exotic pest outbreak.

(e) Follow previously established protocols and SOPs in mobilizing the appropriate response team as outlined in the state and USDA/APHIS/PPQ Emergency Response plan within 48 hours or less.

(f) Follow established SOPs and administrative procedures to immediately institute emergency quarantines and eradication procedures where applicable and necessary to curtail the movement of regulated articles.

(g) In the case of a toxic pesticide release, recruit a volunteer workforce to assist MDEQ and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) in investigations as authorized by law to ensure the safety of the food supply and human health.

(h) In the case of feed, seed, and fertilizer security, provide expertise as authorized by law to do investigations on illegal activities affecting the supplies to distribution centers and growers.

(i) Provide information and recommendations for incidents involving highly infectious exotic plant disease and/or economically devastating plant pest infestations.

**(8) Food Safety and Security Incident Response (MDAC):** The MDAC will:

(a) Conduct rapid assessments of slaughter and processing plants and retail food establishments for consumer protection and re-establishment of business operations that fall within the department's jurisdiction.

(b) Coordinate MDAC response activities within local, state, and tribal jurisdictions as necessary.

(c) Assesses the operating status of inspected meat and poultry product processing and retail facilities in the affected area, which falls under MDAC's jurisdiction.

(d) Facilitates laboratory analysis activities to screen meat and poultry products for chemical, biological, and radiological agents.

(e) Suspends operations of meat and poultry processing plants as appropriate.

(f) Conducts product tracing to determine the source, destination, and disposition of adulterated and/or contaminated products.

(g) Controls products at inspected establishments that are suspected or found to be adulterated through product recall, seizure, detention, and/or closures of regulated establishments.

(h) Evaluate the adequacy of available inspectors, program investigators, and laboratory services relative to the emergency geographically.

(i) Work in coordination with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), MSDH, and MDMR under the FDA Disaster Partnership Agreement.

(j) Work jointly with the MBAH, FDA, MSDH, MDWF&P, MDMR, and other local county and state officials to establish emergency operation center(s) as needed.

**(9) Post-Incident.**

(a) Support private veterinarians in rebuilding local infrastructure.

(b) Support local shelters and animal control agencies in rebuilding efforts.

(c) Assist in evaluating and presenting economic issues (indemnity, reimbursement, damage assessments, etc.).

(d) Facilitate the opening of retail food establishments under emergency guidelines based upon an acceptable food safety inspection.

(e) Support retail stores to ensure a rapid return to business.

(f) Prepare an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP). The AAR/IP identifies key problems, indicates how they will be/were solved, and makes recommendations for improving ESF response operations.

(g) All ESF #11 organizations assist in the preparation of the AAR/IP.

(h) Submit AAR/IP to [infrastructure@mema.ms.gov](mailto:infrastructure@mema.ms.gov) and [planning@mema.ms.gov](mailto:planning@mema.ms.gov).

(i) Review and recommend revision to plans and procedures as determined necessary.

(j) Copy, catalog, and properly file all records and documents on the incident.

(k) Compare ESF #3 staff records with MEMA network tasking and tracking system to ensure accuracy.

**b. Supporting Agencies.** When activated, ESF #11 Supporting agencies are expected to:

(1) Coordinate their support with ESF #11.

(2) Maintain access to all SEOC personnel, systems, and documentation, including but not limited to the Infrastructure Branch Director, WebEOC, HSIN SITRooms, Crisis Track, CEMP and associated Annexes and Appendices, the MEMA Response Framework, and all SEOC policies and procedures.

(3) Ensure support agency's administrative, supervisory, and technical personnel remain aware of the agency's role with MEMA and ESF #11.

(4) Locate, identify, and set up their operational work areas and maintain logistical support for them.

(5) Attend and support briefings and other coordination meetings, whether virtually, at the SEOC, or elsewhere.

(6) Participate in training and exercises when scheduled.

(7) Support the development and maintenance of SOGs to enable them to perform appropriate levels of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to public works and engineering.

(8) Maintain operational logs, messages, requests, and other appropriate documentation for future reference.

(9) Maintain their maps, displays, status reports, and other information not included in the ESF #5 operations.

(10) Provide SITREP and IAP input via WebEOC and appropriate ICS Forms, according to the established operational timeline, event-specific.

The chart below shows the responsibilities of the individual ESF #11 support agencies. The list contains, but is not limited to, the core functions required:

Agency	Functions
<p><b>Mississippi State University (MSU)/ College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist MBAH in animal disaster preparedness and response operations and actions.</li> <li>• Provide training to faculty and other veterinarians in Foreign and Emerging Animal Diseases (FEAD) diagnostics and operations.</li> <li>• Serve as a repository of qualified veterinary diagnosticians for deployment as requested by MBAH.</li> <li>• Provide laboratory support, as required, in performing modern molecular biology diagnostic procedures.</li> <li>• Conduct official continuing education seminars in concert with MSU Cooperative Extension, MVMA, and/or MBAH to train private and academic veterinarians and veterinary students in FEAD diagnostic procedures and all-hazard on-site and off-site animal emergency management operations and procedures.</li> <li>• Provide epidemiological support to field operations.</li> <li>• Designate one primary and one backup individual to serve as the Disaster Response contact for the MSU-CVM with the State Veterinarian.</li> <li>• Compile a directory of individuals who wish to volunteer to serve in the college’s disaster response efforts.</li> <li>• List equipment and supplies that would be available in a disaster response by the college.</li> <li>• Maintain MSU/CVM response plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mississippi State University (MSU)/ Extension Service (ES)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist MBAH in animal disaster preparedness and response operations and actions.</li> <li>• Develop educational materials, as appropriate, and work with producers on infectious diseases and animal depopulation activities.</li> <li>• Provide applicable media support for the ongoing plant, pest, and animal response actions.</li> <li>• Provide management training and educational information.</li> <li>• Assist with damaged assessments.</li> <li>• Assist with staffing actions related to indemnity payment issues as capable.</li> <li>• Assist in presenting and evaluating economic issues related to plant and animal pests and performing risk assessments.</li> <li>• Provide support from Extension personnel and available physical</li> </ul>

Agency	Functions
<b>MSU/ES cont.</b>	<p>facilities to assist in all-hazards mitigation, preparation, and response activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide communication resources, i.e., video conferencing, as available.</li> <li>• Assist in finding shelter for farm animals in the event of a disaster; Maintain MSU-ES response plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Agriculture, Forestry, and Experiment Station (MAFES)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist MBAH in animal disaster preparedness and response operations and actions.</li> <li>• Assist with damaged assessment support.</li> <li>• Assist in presenting and evaluating economic issues related to plant and animal pests and performing risk assessments.</li> <li>• Provide support from Mississippi Agriculture, Forestry, and Experiment Station (MAFES) personnel and, as available, physical facilities and equipment (including vehicles and trailers) to assist in all-hazards mitigation, preparation, and response activities.</li> <li>• Educate the public and farming community about proper care of domestic animals and livestock in a disaster and risk from exotic animal and plant pests.</li> <li>• Maintain the MAFES response plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (MVDL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist MBAH in FEAD-related laboratory analysis.</li> <li>• Provide sampling protocols to MBAH and shipping instructions for coordination and distribution.</li> <li>• Assist in specialized carcass disposal operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster activities that provide continuing education, training, and awareness of all-hazard animal disaster mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and recovery activities.</li> <li>• Assist in the dissemination of disease-related information to veterinarians in the event of an animal emergency/disaster.</li> <li>• Provide members with disaster preparedness materials that can be utilized by practice personnel and the public.</li> <li>• Will support the MART as appropriate.</li> <li>• Perform activities to assess and support veterinary infrastructure as appropriate.</li> <li>• Maintain a list of veterinarians willing and able to assist during disasters.</li> </ul>

Agency	Functions
<p><b>Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate state emergency management system support of plant and animal response operations to include, if needed, assistance from an Incident Support Team (IST), Regional Liaison Officer(s) (RLO), and/or a Regional Response Team (RRT).</li> <li>• Request federal (FEMA, DHS, USDA) and other states’ support via the EMAC if necessary.</li> <li>• Assist in preparing emergency and disaster declaration requests for the Governor, the Secretary of Agriculture, and/or the President as appropriate.</li> <li>• Provide applicable media and public information support for ongoing plant and animal response operations.</li> <li>• Staff the SEOC, as appropriate, for emergency management system support to ongoing animal and plant disaster response operations.</li> <li>• Facilitate incorporation of ESF #11 into County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CCEMPs).</li> <li>• Educate the public about the proper care of domestic animals and livestock in times of disaster.</li> <li>• Support internal and external communications between ESF #11 agencies to the SEOC and the local county EMAs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate with MBAH and MDAC for assistance in overall Health and Medical Services ESF operations.</li> <li>• Provide planning and logistical support for MBAH operations that assist Special Medical Needs Shelters.</li> <li>• Provide on-scene technical support during operations that require Level C or higher PPE.</li> <li>• Provide appropriate vaccinations, including flu vaccines, to animal health first responders.</li> <li>• Provide guidance on human safety and health issues related to the control and containment of diseases in animals and pesticide-contaminated food products.</li> <li>• Provide applicable media support for animal disaster prevention and response operations.</li> <li>• Provide zoonotic disease lab support.</li> <li>• Provide food safety support as appropriate.</li> <li>• Undertake surveillance actions to monitor potential human health impacts from animal disaster response activities.</li> <li>• Assist in providing health and safety training for first responders.</li> <li>• Assist, as appropriate, in conducting a rapid needs assessment.</li> </ul>

Agency	Functions
<b>MSDH cont.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with the MBAH to provide ongoing training for human and animal shelter personnel in response to animals in disasters.</li> <li>• Disseminate health alerts to area healthcare providers (physicians, veterinarians, hospital staff, etc.).</li> <li>• Coordinate decisions regarding animal diseases that impact public health through collaboration with the State Veterinarian and the MS (Federal) Area Veterinarian-in-Charge.</li> <li>• Distribute animal disaster preparedness materials to pet and livestock owners with other emergency preparedness information.</li> <li>• Incorporate MBAH plans into MSDH plans, especially Avian Influenza/Pandemic Flu Plans.</li> <li>• Provide contingencies for worker health and safety.</li> <li>• Provide decontamination technical support.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages, monitors, assists, or conducts response and recovery actions to minimize cultural or historic resource damage.</li> <li>• Identify and consult on archeological sites.</li> <li>• Provide technical preservation assistance for museums and archival collections.</li> <li>• Create or coordinate GIS maps of historic districts in the impacted area.</li> <li>• Provide assistance and expertise in addressing impacts on properties of traditional religious and cultural importance.</li> <li>• Provide Incident Management Teams to assist in cultural or historic resource response and recovery actions.</li> <li>• Conduct or coordinate building and site condition assessments;</li> <li>• Stabilize damaged paper and digital records.</li> <li>• Provide advice and recommendations to individuals and institutions on preparing for and responding to disasters dealing with natural and cultural resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and issue groundwater, waste, and air authorizations as appropriate.</li> <li>• Provide advice and direction related to removing and disposing of carcasses, contaminated food commodities, water resources, soil, and plant materials.</li> <li>• Consider environmental issues involving the disposal of carcasses, contaminated food commodities, water resources, soil, and plant</li> </ul>



Agency	Functions
<b>MDEQ cont.</b>	<p>materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate, as applicable, with the MSDH to provide for water monitoring and soil sampling in areas in proximity to disposal sites containing contaminated carcasses, plant material, food commodities, water resources, soil, and other contaminated substrates.</li> <li>• Provide applicable media support for ongoing animal response operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWF&amp;P)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the distribution and density of susceptible wildlife.</li> <li>• Consult on Threatened and Endangered Species.</li> <li>• Provide disease surveillance of wildlife.</li> <li>• Identify and isolate wildlife that is or may be affected by a FEAD.</li> <li>• Capture, contain, and destroy susceptible wildlife as necessary to eradicate a FEAD and prevent its transmission.</li> <li>• Determine when potentially affected wildlife is free from disease.</li> <li>• Provide applicable media support for ongoing FEAD operations.</li> <li>• Provide a list of wildlife rehabilitators licensed in MS as needed.</li> <li>• Assist during response and recovery efforts.</li> <li>• Conduct an assessment of any lost or escaped exotic animals.</li> <li>• Consult on state-managed natural, cultural, or historical sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate rescue, rehabilitation, or removal of stranded marine mammals.</li> <li>• Consult on Threatened and Endangered Species.</li> <li>• Assist during response and recovery efforts.</li> <li>• Consult on state-managed marine natural, cultural, or historical sites;</li> </ul>
<b>Zookeepers Statewide Zookeepers cont.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share scarce food supplies with other zoos.</li> <li>• Assist as needed with other zoos.</li> <li>• Maintain contact with the American Zoo Association to assist in rounding up and sheltering escaped animals.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the MBAH for information sharing and technical consultation.</li> </ul>
<b>American Red Cross (ARC), Salvation Army</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support food services in accordance with its National Charter, Emergency Operations Plan, and local SOP as applicable.</li> <li>• Provide mobile feeding sites and canteens to feed ESF #11</li> </ul>

Agency	Functions
<p><b>(SA), Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services (MCVS), and Mississippi Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (MSVOAD)</b></p>	<p>emergency workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the MBAH and counties to address humans needing shelter that have animals.</li> <li>• Identify volunteers qualified to assist with ESF#11 response activities as requested.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an SOP and checklist for this ESF in conjunction with MEMA, MDAC, MDH, and other supporting agencies.</li> <li>• Assist the MBAH in determining locations for pet-friendly evacuation shelters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate stress management and/or crisis counseling to producers, retailers, emergency responders, and consumers as needed.</li> <li>• Provide critical incident stress management (CISM), as appropriate.</li> <li>• Consider human impact issues regarding animal depopulation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide law enforcement support for road closures, controlling vehicular traffic, operating isolation facilities, decontamination operations, animal depopulation actions, etc.</li> <li>• Assist with agriculture inspections as needed at roadblocks.</li> <li>• Support the removal of volunteers not operating within the IMS as directed by the State Veterinarian.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS)/ Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the scope of the disaster to determine National Significance.</li> <li>• Provide technical and financial support as needed to support response efforts.</li> <li>• Protect the integrity of disease control efforts.</li> <li>• Support animal and plant response operations to include, if needed, assistance from an IST, a liaison officer(s), and/or RRT.</li> <li>• Coordinate with the FBI for agriculture emergencies that may or could have been terrorist-related.</li> <li>• Include veterinary personnel specializing in foreign and emerging animal diseases and responder protection activities in applicable homeland security exercises and training.</li> </ul>

Agency	Functions
<b>MDPS/MOHS cont.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support multi-agency cooperation, especially with other animal and human health agencies, at the state and local levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Attorney General’s Office (AGO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide legal advice to state officials conducting or evaluating all hazards animal and plant operations and activities.</li> <li>• Coordinate with county and district attorneys to make sure that legal representation is provided to local government agencies conducting animal and plant emergency response operations, including, but not limited to, restriction of the movement of individuals and animals, seizure and destruction of property, medical and liability claims, restriction of public access, suspension of public activities, and indemnity issues.</li> <li>• Provide legal representation as appropriate for the state.</li> <li>• Act as a liaison to the US Attorney General.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide traffic control devices (e.g., signs, barricades, etc.) to assist with traffic control, road closures, and agricultural inspections.</li> <li>• Provide earth-moving equipment for digging small pits and burying carcasses.</li> <li>• Provide right-of-way, where available, for FEAD or plant material inspection sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Development Authority (MDA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist MBAH, MDAC, and MSU/ES in evaluating and presenting the adverse economic issues related to a FEAD and/or plant pest situation.</li> <li>• Assist in continuing to market and promote Mississippi animals, animal products, and plant products.</li> <li>• Assist in providing accurate public information on protecting and using Mississippi agriculture products.</li> <li>• Work with local communities to determine and counter detrimental impacts of animal response operations (e.g., movement restrictions, the suspension of large public gatherings, etc.) on tourism and other economy-related activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory (MSCL)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Chemist shall develop a plan to handle laboratory testing needs for an emergency pesticide release or toxin affecting agricultural production.</li> <li>• Provide equipment and personnel to analyze soil, water, plant tissue,</li> </ul>

Agency	Functions
<b>MSCL cont.</b>	fuel, food commodities, and other samples as needed to determine contamination levels for hazardous materials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine resources and establish a mobile laboratory, if necessary, with the assistance of other agencies and private laboratories having laboratory capabilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Mississippi Crop Improvement Association</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with surveys that monitor exotic pest populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Private Sector Stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes: Farm Bureau, Mississippi Animal Rescue League, Humane Society of South Mississippi, Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association, Mississippi Poultry Association, Mississippi Horse Council, etc.</li> <li>• Work within the incident management system.</li> </ul>

**8. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES.** The procedures in this ESF #11 Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Annex are built on the core coordinating structures of the NIMS and the CEMP. The specific responsibilities of each department and agency are described in the respective ESF, Support, and Incident Annexes, internal agency plans, policies, and procedures. See the CEMP Base Plan or the SEOC Operations Section for a comprehensive list of Authorities and References.

- a. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, PL 93-288.  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act\\_2019.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act_2019.pdf)
- b. Public Law 104-321, October 1996 (EMAC)  
[Public Law 104-321, October 1996](#)
- c. MS Code, Ann. Â§ 33-15(1972): Mississippi Emergency Management Act of 1995, Title 33-15, et al. [Successor to Mississippi Emergency Management Law of 1980]  
[MS Code 33-15](#)
- d. MS Code, Title 45, Chapter 18 Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)  
[Mississippi Code of 2018, Title 45, Chapter 18](#)

- e. National Preparedness Goal, Second Edition, September 2015  
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25959>
- f. National Incident Management System, Third Edition, October 2017  
<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/148019>
- g. National Preparedness System  
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/system>
- h. National Response Framework, Fourth Edition, October 2019  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/NRF\\_FINALApproved\\_2011028.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/NRF_FINALApproved_2011028.pdf)
- i. National Disaster Recovery Framework, Second Edition, June 2016  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/national\\_disaster\\_recovery\\_framework\\_2nd.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/national_disaster_recovery_framework_2nd.pdf)
- j. FEMA National Incident Support Manual, Change 1, January 2013  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/FEMA\\_National\\_Incident\\_Support\\_Manual-change1.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/FEMA_National_Incident_Support_Manual-change1.pdf)
- k. FEMA Incident Action Planning Guide, July 2015  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/Incident\\_Action\\_Planning\\_Guide\\_Revision1\\_august2015.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/Incident_Action_Planning_Guide_Revision1_august2015.pdf)
- l. FEMA Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plan, Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, Version 3.0, September 2021  
[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_cpg-101-v3-developing-maintaining-eops.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_cpg-101-v3-developing-maintaining-eops.pdf)
- m. State of Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, January 2022  
[MEMA Downloads/CEMP](#)
- n. MEMA Response Framework, March 2021  
[MEMA Downloads/MEMA Publications](#)

The MEMA reference repository, containing the CEMP base plan, associated annexes, appendices, and other supporting documents, can be found at [MEMA Downloads](#).

Most Mississippi emergency management stakeholders have access to the MEMA Downloads site. However, non-registered stakeholders may gain access to the repository by submitting an e-mail request to [preparedness@mema.ms.gov](mailto:preparedness@mema.ms.gov).

**9. REVIEW AND MAINTENANCE.** This Annex will be continuously reviewed and exercised to evaluate the state's and political subdivisions' ability to execute response and recovery operations and support tribal, local, and municipal emergency management agencies. Directors of primary state agencies are responsible for maintaining internal policies, plans, SOPs, checklists, and resource data to ensure a prompt and effective response to a disaster in support of this Annex. For training purposes and exercises, the MEMA Executive Director may activate this Annex as deemed necessary to ensure high operational readiness.

MEMA will revise this Annex on a biennial basis. The revision will include testing, reviewing, and updating the document and its procedures. This Annex will be updated every two years, or as necessary, to incorporate new presidential or state directives, legislative changes, and procedural changes based on lessons learned from exercises and actual incidents. This Annex will be rewritten every four (4) years.

MEMA coordinates updates, modifications, and changes to the Annex. Heads of state agencies with ESF coordinator responsibility will periodically provide information regarding changes with available resources, personnel, and operating procedures. Recommended changes will be submitted to MEMA for approval and distribution. Submit recommendations via e-mail to [preparedness@mema.ms.gov](mailto:preparedness@mema.ms.gov).

This Annex applies to all state agencies, state boards, state commissions, and state departments assigned emergency responsibilities and to all elements of local government in accordance with current law and Executive Orders (EOs).