

January Update

2020 ZAHP Grant Applications, Exotic Animal Response Training, and More

ZAHP Grant Applications due February 17th

The ZAHP Fusion Center recently announced two grant opportunities for 2020: Preparedness Grants intended for projects that would improve preparedness at the individual facility level or within a limited geographic area and Capacity Building Grants geared towards larger-scale projects that would have a broader impact on preparedness, response, or recovery in the Exotic Animal Industry (EAI).

Applications for both opportunities are due no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Time on February 17th, 2020. Additional information is included in the application materials for each of these opportunities linked below:

- **[ZAHP Preparedness Grants](#)**: These grants of \$2,000 each are available for projects that seek to improve preparedness at the individual facility or local level. Any exotic animal facility in the United States is eligible to apply for this opportunity. Sample projects may include, but are not limited to:
 - A meeting or workshop that would enhance preparedness at a specific facility or at multiple facilities within a limited geographic area.
 - Supplies, equipment, and/or training needed to improve safety or preparedness at a specific facility.
 - Professional safety/preparedness assessment of a facility.
- **[ZAHP Capacity Building Grants](#)**: These grants of \$5,000 - \$10,000 each are available for projects that seek to build capacity for preparedness, response, and/or recovery in the Exotic Animal Industry (EAI) beyond the individual facility or local level. Any exotic animal facility in the United States is eligible to apply for this opportunity; organizations collaborating with EAI facilities are also eligible to apply (a [Statement of Support](#) from the collaborating facility must be provided). Sample projects may include, but are not limited to:
 - A training or workshop to increase capacity for response at the regional or national level.
 - Purchase of equipment for response or recovery that would be used by or for multiple facilities
 - Development of a training, tool, or equipment that would address a gap in knowledge/ability in a broad portion of the EAI.

Limit one application per organization. Past applicants and recipients of ZAHP Micro-grants are welcome to apply. Additional information and specific requirements are included in the application packet for each grant opportunity (linked above). Applicants must be eligible to receive federal funds.

Applications for both opportunities are due no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Time on February 17th, 2020. Completed applications, as well as any questions, should be sent via email to azielinski@aza.org.

Exotic Animal Response and Heavy Rescue Training

April 4-5, 2020
Palm Springs, CA

*Please note: Participants must be currently employed at a zoo, aquarium, or like facility.
Registration for AZA Midyear is not required to attend this training.*

This training introduces key Animal Search and Rescue (ASAR) and technical

ropes/rigging rescue techniques to exotic animal situations and environments. Participants will engage problem solving skills to challenging mega-vertebrate scenarios and past case studies. In addition, attendees will acquire new rescue “tools” to add to their situational awareness considerations when dealing with a down or trapped animal. After an initial classroom session, the training will be hands-on for the remaining class time as participants learn basic National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) ropes/rescue skills. This course finishes with a sling lift simulation with a 20-foot-tall tripod and XXL lift equipment from Hast Rescue.

Upon completion of this training, participants will have the foundational knowledge needed to assist as in-house technical responders, or to work alongside credentialed response teams as:

- Field responder Subject Matter Experts (SME)
- Field responder ASAR Operations – Exotic Specialist

Participants will receive a certificate of completion and skill-sheet compliant with the [Exotic Animal Strike Team \(EAST\)](#) training guidelines. *Please note: this training is not intended to replace any state or local requirements.*

Instructors: Eric Thompson (Lead Instructor), Carla Lewis (Staff), Morgan Rivera (Staff). For instructor bios visit eerular.org/staff/.

Prerequisites: It is strongly recommended that participants complete Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and 200 before attending this training. These courses are available online free of charge at: training.fema.gov/nims/.

Audience: Technical rescue guidelines and decisions are best made when combining perspectives from many disciplines. This class will appeal to keepers, curators, veterinary staff, leadership roles, etc. Participants must be currently employed at a zoo, aquarium, or like facility.

Please note: this is a hands on training with physical elements. Participants will be asked to sign a waiver at the start of the class.

This 1.5 day event will be held on Saturday, April 4, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday, April 5, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm in conjunction with the AZA Midyear Meeting in Palm Springs, CA. The ZAHP Fusion Center is pleased to offer this opportunity to zoo and aquarium professionals free of charge. Registration for Mid-Year is not required to attend this training.

To register visit: <https://forms.gle/ywbSDAu3QBmeNNL5A>.

Please contact [Ashley Zielinski](#) with any questions.

Planning Focus: Risk Assessment

Conducting a thorough risk assessment will help you to determine which hazards are the most likely to occur at your facility as well as which hazards would carry the highest consequence. This is a critical step in determining what areas to focus on in your emergency planning.

Whether you are conducting an assessment for the first time or doing a review, your local Emergency Management, Police, and Fire Departments can be an excellent resource and should be included in your assessment process. For industry specific guidance check out our [Contingency Planning Modules](#) which include an entire module devoted to conducting a risk assessment. The Zoo Best Practices Working Group's [Risk Assessment Annex](#) is also an excellent source of information.

