

April 2019 Update

Microgrant Reminder, ZAHP Town Hall, Enhancing Training for Response, and more!

Microgrant Applications Due May 1st

There is still time to apply for the Contingency Planning Microgrant program which will be offering up to fifteen \$1,000 microgrants to increase preparedness and response activities across the exotic animal industry. Download the [application questionnaire](#) for more information or to begin your application.

Applications must be submitted to azielinski@aza.org no later than May 1, 2019 and applicants will be notified on whether or not they were selected to receive a microgrant by June 1, 2019. Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) with any questions or concerns.

ZAHP Town Hall

Since it began in 2014, the ZAHP Fusion Center has worked to bridge the gap between the managed wildlife community and the emergency management sector by disseminating information on various hazards, developing industry specific resources and trainings, coordinating regional meetings, and cultivating relationships with relevant government, private sector, and NGO groups. As we look towards planning our 6th year, we want to hear from you on what has been helpful so far and how we can better meet the needs of this community moving forward.

If you are planning on attending AZA Midyear, please consider joining us for a preliminary Town Hall meeting on Monday April 15th from 2:00 - 5:30 pm to learn about ZAHP's current initiatives and participate in discussions to help guide future efforts.

Please feel free to share this announcement with friends and colleagues that may be interested. All are welcome and no prior knowledge of ZAHP or emergency planning is necessary to participate. Every aspect of your operation can be impacted by disasters and every perspective is valuable as we work to identify unmet needs and determine what resources and activities would be of greatest benefit to this community.

Preliminary feedback from this session will be used to inform a Virtual Town Hall, to be scheduled later this year. In the meantime, please contact us if you have any thoughts or suggestions for how we can best gather feedback from the community.

Enhancing Training for Response

In late February the ZAHP Fusion Center held a workshop on Enhancing Training for Response in the Exotic Animal Industry, hosted by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium (OHDZA). The purpose of this inaugural workshop, attended by representatives from 16 zoological facilities as well as leadership from Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Zoological Association of America, and American Humane, was to begin conversations on how our industry can better train and organize to assist one another in disasters.



In an effort to leverage work already being done by leading organizations in companion animal search and rescue, ZAHF invited Dr. Dick Green, Senior Director of Disaster Response for the [American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(ASPCA\)](#) and Eric Thompson, Director of Disaster Response for [Code 3 Associates](#) and a certified technical [Animal Search and Rescue \(ASAR\)/Heavy Extrication instructor](#) to talk about what it takes to create and manage a credentialed ASAR team, and go over some of the biggest lessons they've learned as response professionals. These presentations provided a foundation for the group to discuss the potential development of an exotic animal strike team with characteristics similar to a credentialed ASAR team, but specialized to fulfill needs involving exotic animals.

The following day, Mr. Thompson provided instruction to OHDZA's response team to examine how ASAR training may be adapted for the needs of an exotic response team; this included heavy extrication techniques that have already been proven useful in assisting zoos with large mammals.

ZAHF hopes to use conversations begun in this workshop and the following training to facilitate continued discussion between the response community and zoological professionals with regards to training and integration into formal response frameworks.

The ZAHF Fusion Center works alongside the ASPCA and Code 3 as members of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC). NARSC works collaboratively and cooperatively to assist communities and their animals in their preparations for and response to incidents that place animals in crisis.

April Preparedness Focus: Food

[Do 1 Thing](#), a non-profit organization that aims to build more disaster resilient communities, asks the community to do one "thing" to enhance preparedness each month.

The focus for April is food. This month we challenge you to review the aspects of your contingency plans as they relate to food. Consider the following:

- How many days worth of food does your facility have on hand at a given time and how is it stored?
 - Make sure to consider staff that may remain at the zoo in addition to collections.
- How would a loss of power affect your food supply?
- Have you identified alternative sources of food in case your normal supply is cut off?
 - Do you have MOUs with vendors or other facilities to address this?

View additional general resources on this topic [here](#). If you are just getting started with planning, consider looking to our [Contingency Planning Modules](#) for more industry specific information.

Secure Zoo Strategy Webinar Series

This webinar series will introduce Secure Zoo Strategy (SZS), a guide to help facilities develop business continuity plans to address the unique needs of the exotic animal industry in Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreaks.

This 10 step program will help participants develop a facility emergency preparedness plan to address disease issues, and teach them how to refine these plans along side their State Animal health officials who will have authority during a FAD event. If you think you have species that are susceptible to Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs), you need to learn more about Secure Zoo!

[Click here to register](#)

There are two more sessions in this series; recordings are available to anyone who would like to attend but was unable to make previous dates (links will be included in your registration confirmation). Feedback from participants in these webinars will be used to further refine the SZS documents before they are finalized.

Schedule

All webinars will take place on Fridays at 10:00 am ET

- **April 12th** - Steps 8 & 9: Media & Communications and Recovery
- **April 26th** - Step 10: Facility Readiness Evaluation

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