

# August 2019 Update

Multi-Agency Coordination, Vesicular Stomatitis, and More!

## Multi-Agency Coordination

If you missed last month's webinar, *Multi-Agency Coordination: What the Exotic Animal Industry Can Learn from Existing Animal Response Teams*, an archival copy is available to view [here](#). Animal Multi-Agency Coordination Groups and/or Response Teams are used in a number of states, counties, and communities during disasters to coordinate resources and response efforts for companion animals and animals used in agriculture.

In this webinar, presenters provide an overview of these efforts, introduce the model used to develop existing teams, and share some of their most valuable insights and lessons learned during the evolution of these groups. Participants will learn how this model can be adapted for the exotic animal industry and what steps can be taken to begin efforts at the local or regional level.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about this opportunity. To learn about existing efforts in your area reach out to your state or local emergency management. A [list of state emergency management agencies](#) is available on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website.

## Vesicular Stomatitis

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) is a Foreign Animal Disease that has emerged sporadically in the western United States this summer. A viral disease, it can affect horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, llamas, and conceivably, other hoofstock. It has been rarely reported in bobcats, raccoons and monkeys.

Flies and midges spread the disease, along with direct contact with infected animals. Like other vesicular disease complexes, you will see blisters, ulceration, and drooling. Animals may go off feed. Do not take these clinical signs lightly, please report any suspicious clinically ill animals to your [State Animal Health Official](#).

For more information, including 2019 situational reports, visit the [VSV information page](#) on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website. Note that so far, cases have been detected in Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. If you reside in these states, it is recommended you also check with your State Animal Health Official's website for pertinent state information.

## Preparedness Focus: Get Involved

August's preparedness focus is [getting involved](#). Zoos and aquariums fill an important role in local communities, often serving as a family-friendly gathering places, hubs for nature education, and drivers for local economies. This month we encourage you to think about how your facility might support preparedness and response activities in your community. Disasters begin and end locally, so supporting these activities at a local level is an excellent way to build and strengthen relationships with those that may be assisting you in

a disaster. Consider the following:

- What are some ways your facility could support the local community in preparedness or response?
  - Do you have space that could be utilized by emergency management, first responders, or volunteers for preparedness training or exercises?
  - Do you have a large parking lot that could be used as a staging area during response?
  - If you are in an unaffected area, could you offer free or reduced price admission to community members displaced by a disaster?
- How might your facility support nearby facilities in preparedness and response?
  - Could you host or help organize a meeting with nearby facilities and emergency management?
  - Do you have personnel or equipment that could be utilized to assist nearby facilities in response or recovery? *Please note: Response efforts must go through emergency management.*
  - Are you able to offer remote assistance such as social media monitoring, guidance on regulatory paperwork, etc. to affected facilities?

If you are just getting started with planning, consider looking to our [Contingency Planning Modules](#) for more industry specific information. Additional information on crisis communication plans for businesses is available on [ready.gov](#).

[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.

## Come Meet with Us!

Members of the ZAHP team will be present at a number of upcoming conferences. If you are attending any of the following events and would like to set up some time to chat please [let us know!](#)

- American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) National Conference
  - August 18th - 22nd
  - Indianapolis, IN
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Annual Conference
  - September 7th - 11th
  - New Orleans, LA
- Big Cat Sanctuary Alliance (BCSA)
  - September 17th - 19th
  - Fort Wayne, IN
- American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV)
  - September 28th - October 4th
  - St. Louis, MO

## Secure Zoo Strategy Feedback

If you have been using Secure Zoo Strategy (SZS) please consider taking a few moments to complete [this survey](#) to provide feedback on how we can improve this resource for the community. Please note: You do not need to have participated in the webinar series to submit feedback.

The full strategy, including assessments, worksheets, and additional resources, is available on the [Secure Zoo Website](#). Links to archival copies of the SZS webinar series are included below.

- [Steps 1 & 2](#): Partnerships and Business Model
- [Steps 3 & 4](#): Risk Assessment and Roles for Personnel
- [Step 5](#): Biosecurity Program & Map
- [Steps 6 & 7](#): Surveillance and Operations
- [Steps 8 & 9](#): Media & Communications and Recovery
- [Step 10](#): Facility Readiness Evaluation

