

# July 2019 Update

Multi-Agency Coordination Webinar, African Swine Fever, and More!

## Reminder: Webinar Opportunity July 25th!

### Multi-Agency Coordination: What the Exotic Animal Industry Can Learn from Existing Animal Response Teams

July 25th 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

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 will 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.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

No previous knowledge of Multi-Agency Coordination groups is required to participate in this webinar. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about this opportunity.

## African Swine Fever

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs. While ASF has not been found in the United States, recent outbreaks in Asia and Eastern Europe have highlighted the importance of taking preventive measures to protect susceptible species in your collection from this viral disease, particularly if any staff or visitors may have recently traveled to countries where the disease has been found. The [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) ASF information page](#) and [National Pork Board \(NPB\) Foreign Animal Disease Resource page](#) both contain a number of excellent resources to help you learn more and prepare.



Red River Hog Piglets  
Steve Wilson, cc by 2.0

#### Additional Resources:

- [African Swine Fever Factsheet](#)
- [Center for Food Security and Public Health](#)
- [Biosecurity for Pigs with Outdoor Access](#)
- [Feral Swine: Impacts on Threatened and Endangered Species](#)
- [Feral Swine: Impacts on Game Species](#)
- [International Travel Biosecurity](#)
- [Hosting International Visitors](#)
- [NPB Show Pig Resources](#)
- [American Association of Swine Veterinarians](#)
- [www.securepork.org](http://www.securepork.org)

Anyone who works with pigs should be familiar with the signs of ASF:

- High fever

- Decreased appetite and weakness
- Red, blotchy skin or skin lesions
- Diarrhea and vomiting
- Coughing and difficulty breathing

Suspected cases of ASF should be reported to your [State Animal Health Official \(SAHO\)](#) or [Area Veterinarian in Charge \(AVIC\)](#).

Foreign Animal Diseases such as ASF have the potential to be used as biological terror agents. If you see any suspicious activity around your facility you can report it by calling 855-TELL-FBI (855-835-5324) or contacting the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate Coordinator at your local [field office](#).

## Preparedness Focus: Communication

July's preparedness focus is [communication](#). A disaster impacting your facility may disrupt normal communications within your facility as well as with the outside world. Consider the following:

- How will you communicate with staff and guests on grounds during a disaster?
  - Has this method of communication been tested for functionality in shelter in place areas? Do these areas have a way to charge radios or cellphones?
- Do you have a plan for how to communicate with individuals and agencies off-site?
  - Is this plan easily accessible to staff that may be on grounds during an emergency? Is information for all emergency contacts included and up to date?
- How will you communicate if cell service is not working?
  - Do you have a designated contact outside of the area that you may be able to reach if local circuits are exhausted? Has your facility looked into buying or renting a satellite phone that could be used if other methods of communication are down?

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.

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