

# November 2018 Update

Disaster Communications, African Swine Fever, Training Opportunities, and more

*Welcome to our new look! As we begin using this distribution system, we ask that you please inform us of any issues you encounter so that we may correct them to ensure you have the best possible experience.*

## Preparing for Communications Challenges during Disaster

Communication is a key component to any disaster response plan. While it is likely that your facility has already determined communication chains, methods, and points of contact for various emergency scenarios, it is also important that you prepare for the possibility that the systems used to relay those messages could break down.

Widespread power outages and cell service failures such as those seen in Hurricane Michael and the California wildfires will cause significant communication issues. Landlines, cable internet, and radio are also likely to be effected during these events. So how can you prepare?

### Satellite Phones

In the companion animal response community, organizations often rely on the use of satellite phones to ensure that they will be able to communicate on the ground. While they may be expensive to purchase outright, procuring one or two satellite phones could be beneficial if your facility is in an area prone to sudden onset disasters such as wildfire. If your facility is more prone to events that are predicted in advance, such as hurricanes, there are a number of companies that offer rentals daily or weekly rentals for a much lower fee and will include next-day delivery.

### Social Media

When communications are limited by disasters social media can be a double edged sword. It is an easy to use tool that can help you get out important messages quickly, but it is just as adept at distributing misinformation. It is important to make sure that social media is addressed in your communication plan, including guidelines for how it will be used and who the offsite point of contact will be in the event of a large-scale disaster.

If you would like to participate in a Working Group that will look to provide further guidance on the use of social media during disaster please [contact us](#).

## African Swine Fever

As African Swine Fever continues to spread throughout other parts of the world, it is important to review how you will protect susceptible species in your collection from this viral disease. Please see the below resources from the United States Department of Agriculture for more information:

- [African Swine Fever Factsheet](#)
- [Biosecurity for Pigs with Outdoor Access](#)
- [Feral Swine: Impacts on Threatened and Endangered Species](#)

- [Feral Swine: Impacts on Game Species](#)

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](#).

## Free Training Opportunity

The FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be hosting a free two day workshop on Animal/Plant Health Joint Criminal Investigations on January 9th & 10th at the Palo Verde Energy Education Center in Buckeye, AZ, and are encouraging representatives from exotic animal industry facilities in Arizona to attend. Visit the [registration page](#) for additional information.

For more information on on Animal/Plant Health Joint Criminal-Epidemiological Investigations and Emerging Zoonotic Diseases, please see the fact sheet [here](#).

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## Coming Soon!

The ZAHP Fusion Center will be presenting new webinar offerings beginning early next year. Please answer the questions below to help us determine the best day(s) and time(s) to schedule these offerings.

What day of the week would be most convenient for you to attend a webinar?

At what time of day would you be most likely to attend?

**Monday**

**10:00am ET**

Select

Select

**Tuesday**

**11:00am ET**

Select

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**Wednesday**

**12:00pm ET**

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**Thursday**

**1:00pm ET**

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4:00pm ET

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5:00pm ET

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301-562-0777 ext. 114 | <http://zahp.aza.org>