



Planning Considerations for Emergency Animal Transport

May 24, 2023



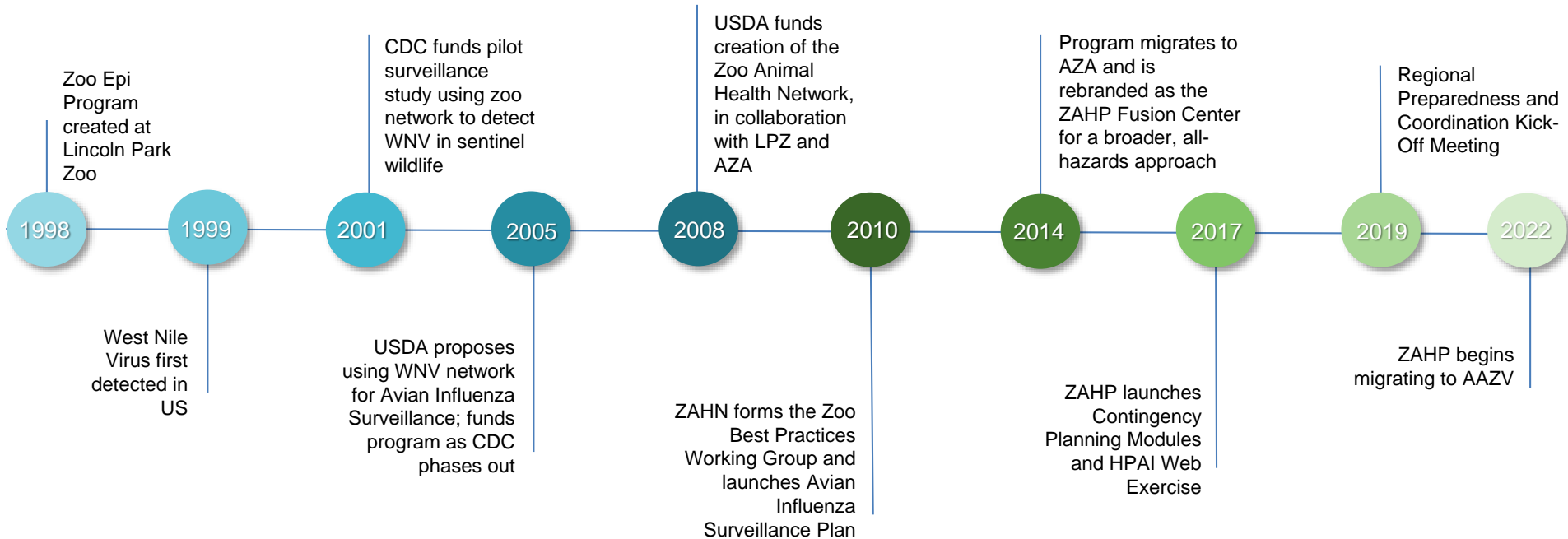
Zoo and Aquarium
All Hazards
Partnership

What is ZAHP?

- A collaborative effort to advance preparedness and resilience to all hazards impacting zoos, aquariums, and managed wildlife facilities
- Leverages the expertise of the Exotic Animal Industry (EAI) and emergency management sector
- Cooperative agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Association of Zoos Veterinarians (AAZV)

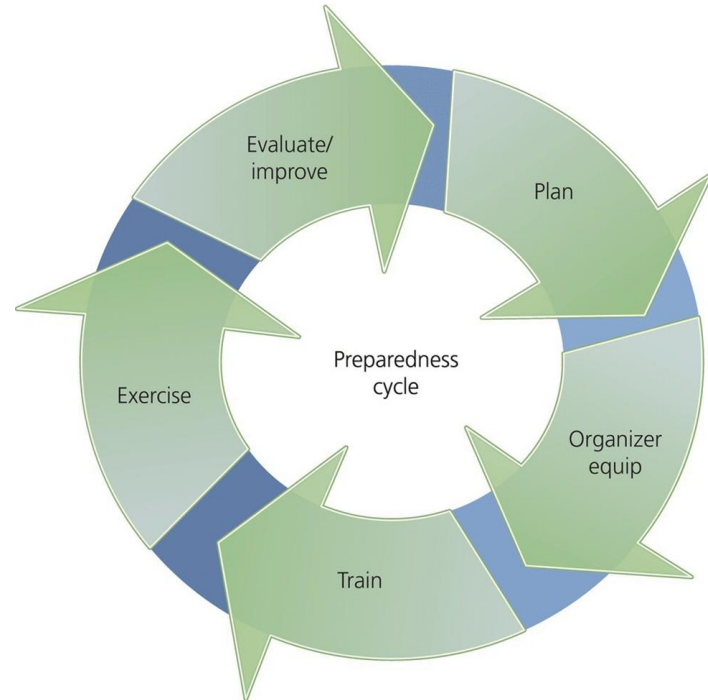



Program History



Emergency Preparedness

There is no 'one size fits all' plan, and in many ways the process of developing a contingency plan can be more important than the plan itself





"If you're picking up furniture and throwing it up on a truck – anybody can do that, ... you can't take someone off the street and, say, 'Go get the 500-pound lion.' It just doesn't work that way."

- Terry Lincoln, Director Dakota Zoo; New York Times June 24, 2011 speaking about Missouri River flooding

Planning Objectives

1 Priority =
Preserving human
life, health, and
safety

Establish contingency plan objectives for:

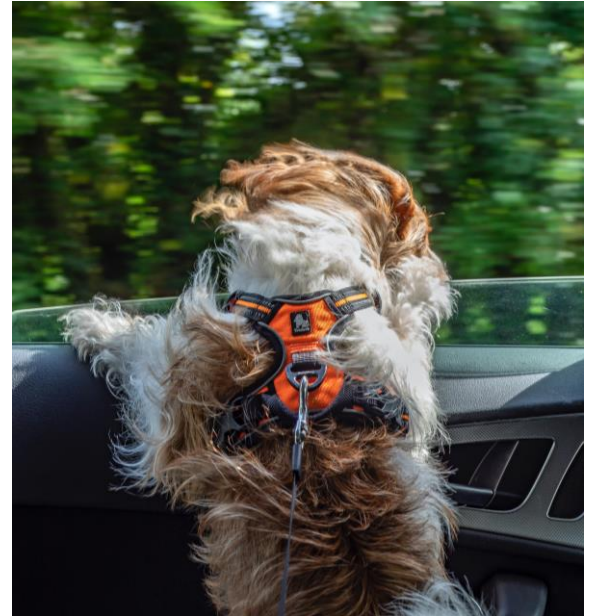
- An on-site emergency necessitates evacuation or relocation of animals
- An emergency in-route impacts a planned shipment or evacuation
- An incident occurs during transport

Keep it SMART!

Planning objectives should be:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Time Sensitive

Ex: Safely transport my dog from home to the vet's office next Friday at 4:30pm.



Planning Partners

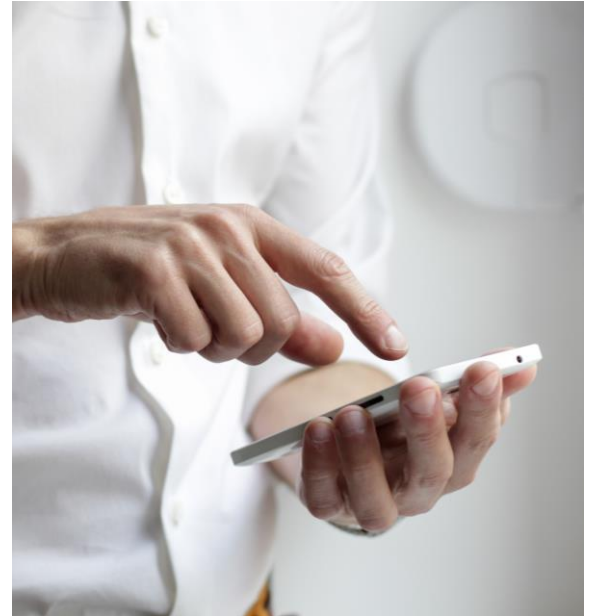
- State & Local
 - State animal health officials
 - Public health
 - Emergency management
 - Law enforcement & highway administration
- Federal
 - USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)
 - NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
 - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
- Industry and transport partners
- & more...



Planning Partners

Communication is key!

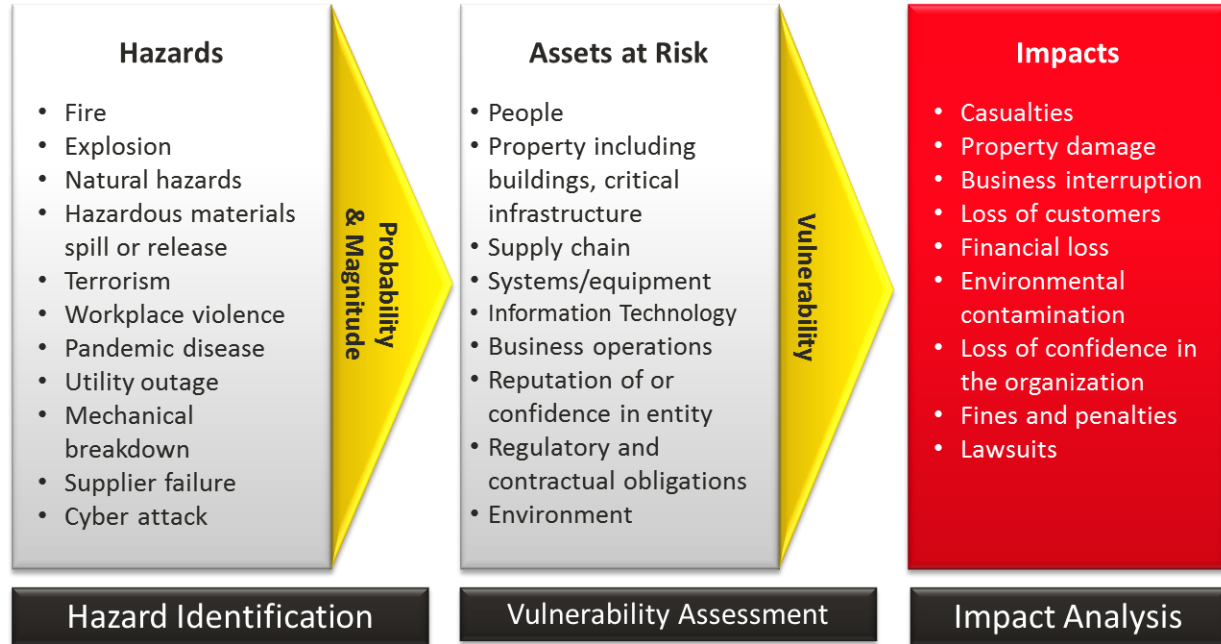
- Reach out to partners during emergency planning and/or *before* a planned transport
- Determine what information needs to be shared before and during transport, and share with relevant agencies
- Have contact information readily accessible in case an incident does occur




Risk Assessment

What hazards are most likely to impact a transport or trigger an evacuation?
Least likely?

What hazards would have the greatest impact? The lowest impact?



Unique Risks & Vulnerabilities



There are more than 8,500 species represented in AZA facilities alone!

- Zoological facilities have unique risks & vulnerabilities, such as animal escapes and exposures
- Specific needs and considerations can vary greatly between facilities and for different species
 - Specialized expertise & equipment
 - Challenges & hazards
 - Differing regulatory requirements
 - Conservation status

Identify Needs & Capabilities

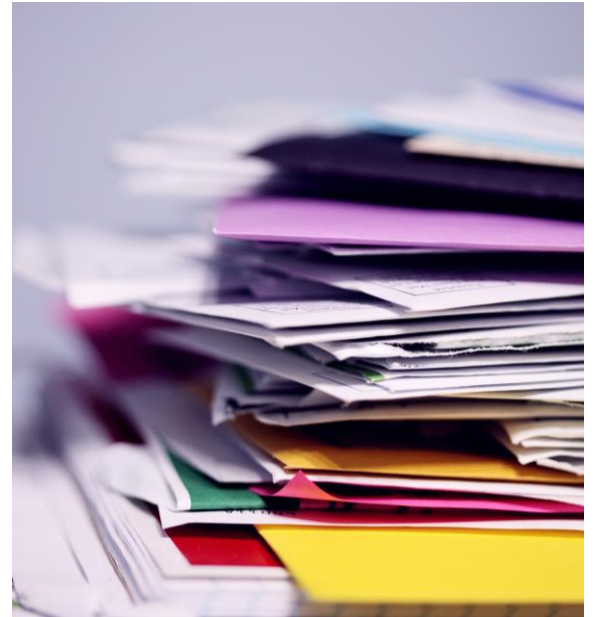
Consider what is
needed to achieve
objectives and
mitigate risks

- Specialized equipment needs
- Personnel and expertise
- Training and preparations
- Water and diet
- Fuel
- Permits and waivers
- Contacts
- Replacement or backup resources
- Housing
- Biosecurity protocols
- Decision making authority
- Species specific needs

Writing the Plan

Begin writing your plan, developing specific actions and procedures based on the information gathered in earlier steps. Make sure to consider

- What conditions would trigger an evacuation? How would animals be prioritized if time is limited? Who makes the final decisions?
- What conditions would cause a transport to stop and turn back?
- Who has decision making authority during transit?
- What are communication needs for various audiences?



Final Thoughts



- Communicate with partners before, during, and after transport
- Stay flexible, things don't always go as planned but maintaining contact can help mitigate issues that may occur
- Train, maintain, and regularly evaluate plans based to reflect lessons learned

Resources

ZAHP Contingency Planning Modules

<https://zahp.org/all-hazards/>

Zoo Best Practices Working Group Animal Transportation/Evacuation Annex

https://zahp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Animal_Trans_Evac_Annex.pdf

Zoo & Aquarium Safety: Example Practices

<https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/safety-example-practices-for-aquariums-zoos-2015-.pdf>

AZA Animal Care Manuals

<https://www.aza.org/animal-care-manuals?locale=en>

USDA Contingency Planning Rule and Resources

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/contingency-planning-rule/aphis-2020-0101>

ASPCA Contingency Plan Template for Animal Facilities

<https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/contingency-plan-eap-template.docx>

USFWS Emergency National Agricultural Biosecurity Center Livestock Emergency Response Plan Template

<https://www.k-state.edu/nabc/docs/lerp/ALERPTemplate.pdf>

United Kingdom Animal Transport Certificate and Contingency Plan Template for a Specific Journey

<https://www.rpra.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/ATC-091215.pdf>

Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue, and Recovery

<https://www.zdr3.org/>

USFWS Emergency Consultation

<https://www.fws.gov/node/265135>

NASAAEP Animal Evacuation and Transportation Best Practices Working Group

https://www.thenasaaep.com/files/ugd/8b3e05_2de756c1197641b58e1f5292f397685d.pdf

NMFS National Inventory

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/national-inventory-marine-mammals>

International Air Transport Association

<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/live-animals/>

Animal Transportation Association

<https://www.animaltransportationassociation.org/>

Endangered Species Act

<https://www.fws.gov/media/endangered-species-act>

Marine Mammals Protection Act

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-protection-act-policies-guidance-and-regulations>

Lacey Act

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/lacey-act/>

Animal Welfare Act

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare-act>

Thank You!

Ashley Zielinski – ZAH Program Director
azielinski@zahp.org

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