The Other Victims: Evacuation, Care, and Recovery of Large Animals During a Disaster

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Oklahoma Large Animal First Responders
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Speaker Biography

- Originally form Fort Worth, TX, HS in NE New Mexico
- BS in Biology from Texas Christian University
- BA in Spanish from the University of Texas-Arlington
- MS in Animal Science from the University of Connecticut
- DVM from Texas A&M University
- Associate Veterinarian: Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery, Oklahoma Racehorse Division
- Lives in Edmond, OK, wife Cindy and daughters Lily and Olivia
Outline/Objectives

• Personal introduction to emergency response (5/2013)
• Formation/incorporation of OLAFR
• Command structure/organization/affiliations
• Funding
• Training
• Equipment
• Promotion
• Pitfalls & Remedies
OLAFR History: May 20\textsuperscript{th}, 2013
5/20/13 Geography
Celestial Acres Training Center (Moore, OK)
Initial Response: 5/20/13

- Triage
- Evacuation
- Euthanasia
- Dr. Mike Wiley
The Aftermath

- Return to the scene
- Injured victims
- Uninjured but affected victims
- Ongoing evacuations
- Distribution of donated items
- Temporary care/foster situations
- Cleanup
El Reno: 5/31/2013
OLAFR: The Beginning

- First Meetings: Summer 2013
- OK Medical Reserve Corps
- OK Dept. of Agriculture
- USDA-APHIS
Organizational Beginnings

- Naming and mission statement
- 501(c)3 status (and what to do in the meantime)
- Bylaws
- Standard Operating Guidelines/Procedures
- Meetings
- Veterinary aspects
  - Legalities
  - Responsibilities
  - Crucial role of the veterinarian
OLAFR Mission Statement

In the event of a catastrophic disaster, whether natural and/or man-made, in Oklahoma City and the surrounding areas, we seek to assist in a public/private partnership that bridges the gap between federal, state and local agencies and private citizens by forming a comprehensive team capable of providing urgent care, triage, evacuation and other support for large animal victims and their owners.
Command Structure

• Oklahoma SART
  • Medical Reserve Corps
  • Independent team

• Communication with federal, state, and local authorities
  • USDA-APHIS
  • Oklahoma Department of Agriculture
  • Local LE/EM
Funding Sources

- ASPCA Midwestern Disaster Resiliency Grant Program
  - Purchase of 3-horse trailer (WW Trailers)
- Oklahoma Quarter Horse Racing Association
- Kirkpatrick Foundation: Training
- Greater Oklahoma Hunter-Jumper Association
- AAEP Foundation: Equipment
- Total Grants/Donations: $40,000+
Training/Conferences

- LSART/OSU Training (10/2014)
- FEMA Region VI USDA ESF11 TTX (4/2015)
- Code 3 Associates (2/2017)
- BARTA-UC Davis Conference (10/2017)
Equipment: Questions to Ask

- What is your mission?
  - Disaster response vs. rescue
- What are your capabilities?
  - Can you use the equipment?
- How much training has your team had?
  - Who has done the training?
- What situations should you avoid?
  - Legal/liability considerations
Promotion

• Social media: your best friend and worst enemy
  • Be careful
  • Speak with one voice (PIO is crucial)
• Local vs. national media
• Other online tools
  • Website
  • Newsletter
  • Blogs
• Conferences/trade shows
Pitfalls and Remedies

• Pitfalls
  • Board of directors burnout
  • Lack of funding
  • Volunteer disinterest/attrition

• Remedies
  • Refresh board when possible
  • Consider creative fundraisers/sources
  • Hold regular events/trainings/exercises
Final Thoughts

• Disaster response is:
  • Hard work
  • Tedious work
  • Boring work
  • Thankless work
  • Amazing work
Questions?