


Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association	
POLICY: 3211 DATE May 28, 2009 APPROVED: PRESIDENT: _____	SUBJECT: Animal Evacuation

Policy 3211: Animal Evacuation

Scope

Coordination of evacuation of animals (large and small) is necessary to prevent loss of pets and livestock during fire and other emergency operations. A coordinated operation will enable the animal evacuations to occur without hampering fire suppression and other emergency operations. The Santa Cruz County Animal Services Agency (ASA) is the primary point of contact.

Procedure

1. The Incident Commander (Law/Fire) is on scene of a disaster (ie: large wildland fire) and identifies the need to evacuate large and small animals. Human evacuations are the highest priority.
2. The Incident Commander requests through the dispatch center of jurisdiction to SCCECC (Netcom) that the ASA and Equine Evacuation Team be activated to the Command post. The Equine Evacuation Team reports to the ASA representative at the command post for assignments.
3. Netcom notifies the Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services (OES) that the equine evacuation team has been activated.
4. OES authorizes the activation.
5. The ASA conducts and directs large and small animal rescue activities as directed by the Incident Commander.
6. The ASA coordinates the animal shelter site locations. They can request assistance from the OES and the American Red Cross (ARC) for support services.
7. ASA maintains animal evacuation situation status reports.
8. Once evacuations are complete, the animals sheltered, and, the disaster situation has been controlled, a re-entry plan will be approved by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction for all evacuees (human and animal).
9. Incident Commander demobilizes ASA/equine evacuation operational response when they are no longer needed to support the re-entry plan.

Note: OES must authorize the deployment of the Equine Evacuation Team since they are Disaster Service Worker volunteers whose activation must be approved by OES so that they are covered for workers compensation.