



**Emergency Support Function 11
Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Coordinating Agency

West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA)

Primary Support Agency

West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM)

Support Agencies and Organizations

- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)
- West Virginia Department of Commerce
- WV Department of Transportation (WVDOT)
- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR)
- West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts
- West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (WVMDAPS)
- West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH)
- West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service
- West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WVVOAD)
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- West Virginia Farm Bureau
- West Virginia Office of the Humane Society of the United States
- West Virginia Conservation Agency

Purpose

This annex establishes policies and procedures to support local authorities and the efforts of other state agencies to provide nutritional assistance, ensure the safety and security of the commercial food supply, control or eradicate, as appropriate, any outbreak of contagious or reportable animal disease or any outbreak of economically devastating plant pest or disease, protect natural and cultural resources and historic properties; and provide for the safety and well-being of household pets during an emergency response or evacuation situation.

Scope

A. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 includes implementing an integrated federal, state, and local response to either an outbreak of a highly contagious or reportable diseases, or an outbreak of an economically significant plant pest or disease. This ESF will ensure coordination with ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services and other issues where agriculture and natural resources are effected in disaster situations.

B. In coordination with ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services, the ESF will encompass the safety and security of the commercial food supply. The WVDA will include the inspection and verification of food safety in slaughter and processing plants; products in distribution and retail sites; laboratory analysis of food samples; control of products suspected to be adulterated; plant closures; and field investigations.

C. The WVDA will determine nutrition assistance needs of disaster victims, obtaining bulk food supplies, and arranging for delivery of the supplies.

D. The WVDCH will identify, preserve, protect, promote and present the ideas, arts and artifacts of any agricultural and/or natural resource incident for the purpose of recording West Virginia’s heritage.

E. Provide assistance for the safety and well-being of household pets. This ESF will include responsibilities in coordination with WVDHSEM, ESF 6 Mass Care, ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services, and ESF 9 Urban Search & Rescue to ensure an integrated response that provides for the safety and well-being of household pets.

Policies

A. All agencies assigned responsibilities within this ESF will develop and maintain the necessary plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), mutual aid agreements, and model contracts to successfully accomplish their tasks.

B. Restoration of normal operations at energy facilities for food storage is the responsibility of the facility owners.

Organizational Structure

The West Virginia Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture is the lead agency for ESF 11 in the West Virginia State Emergency Operations Center (WVSEOC) and is responsible for the coordination of this function, and for the maintenance of this part of the State of West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (WVEOP). Each of the five ESF 11 functions is supported by federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. Additional support agencies may be needed to provide the resources to assist with all five ESF 11 functions.

Concept of Operations

ESF 11 staff may respond to the WVSEOC when an incident threatens to disrupt the routine protection of the food supply and distribution systems, cause animal and/or plant disease outbreaks, endanger animal health, endanger historic, cultural or natural resources, or endanger the safety and well-being of household pets. ESF 11 will implement standard procedures and coordinate actions to assist local governments.

A. Nutrition Assistance

1. A catastrophic or major disaster will deprive substantial numbers of people access to food and/or the means to prepare food. The food supply and distribution network will be interrupted until roads are cleared and power is restored. Without power, many commercial cold storage and freezer facilities will be inoperable and much of the existing food supply inventory may be destroyed.
2. Disaster education initiatives by state and local government agencies and voluntary organizations will advise the public to stockpile food and water supplies sufficient for their household for 5 to 7 days. Residents in a disaster area must be prepared to care for themselves until the normal food supply and distribution system has been restored or supplemental food supplies have arrived.
3. During the increased readiness period, ESF 11 will develop estimates of the number of people who will need food based on damage projections.
4. The earliest situation reports and damage assessments will indicate the level of immediate human needs including food, and the condition of the infrastructure including the transportation system and the power grid.
5. WVDA will assist affected local governments as needed with the provision of essential food supplies to mass care facilities. Such assistance will include locating items and making them available and ensuring pick-up and delivery through other ESFs. This assistance will be provided only during that period when local governments/private and non-private organizations are unable to manage on their own due to disaster effects.
6. After the delivery of food supplies to the disaster area, it will be the responsibility of the receiving local government, and in part or whole by WVVOAD, to secure and distribute these supplies to disaster victims.
7. The delivery of food to victims of disasters is dependent upon food sources, food protection services, transportation resources and food delivery systems. Conditions in the disaster area determine the appropriate methods of delivering food to individuals. Food can be delivered to disaster victims and relief workers by prepared meals in fixed or mobile feeding facilities, by bulk through food banks or other volunteer agencies.
8. Priority will be to utilize food from known commercial food manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, and/or non-profit organizations that normally provide food and associated items. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or WVDA donated foods will be used when other provider's supplies are exhausted.

9. Food supplies in the impacted areas must be from sources acceptable to WVDHHR and local health departments, before they can be used or distributed. This includes donated food and food services to disaster victims in mobile or fixed feeding facilities.

10. State agencies and food banks across the state that purchase, store, and deliver food as part of their normal operations will cooperate with WVDA in locating and providing surplus food for delivery to the disaster area. These agencies include those which operate food services for their own residential populations (prisons, colleges, hospitals) and those that assist with the distribution of food to local government facilities (schools and health departments).

11. WVDHHR and WVDA will coordinate with local officials and private and non-profit organizations to ensure the ample and timely delivery of essential food supplies. They will assess the effectiveness of the disaster relief food distribution operation and address any problems. WVDA and WVDHHR will assist with restoration of local commercial food supply and distribution system. Grocery stores and other food outlets should be able to resume normal operations within several days once road access and electric power have been restored.

B. Safety and Security of the Commercial Food Supply

1. A natural or manmade disaster could threaten the safety and security of the commercial food supply. Natural disasters may damage or destroy food storage facilities, cause floods and interrupt electrical power resulting in contamination and temperate abuse of food. Manmade incidents may result in food contamination by chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive agents. Fires and food-transporting vehicle accidents may also cause food contamination.

2. WVDA and WVDHHR have trained personnel and plans for responding to natural or manmade disasters that may have rendered food unsafe for consumption. The two agencies will coordinate activities to maximize the use of resources. When presented with a food safety or security mission, staff in ESF 11 staff person will contact the Commissioner of Agriculture and Secretary of WVDHHR. These individuals will coordinate with staff to plan the response and keep staff in ESF 11 informed.

C. Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response

1. WVDA has the primary responsibility for monitoring animal and plant diseases and pest infestations affecting agriculture.

2. WVDA has developed procedures to address animal diseases including quarantine, depopulation and disposal activities designed to stop the spread of the pathogen, limit the number of animals that must be euthanized and minimize the effect of the disease on people, the economy and the environment.

3. WVDA will utilize existing and most current international, national, state and other recognized subject matter experts and documents to assist in dealing with animal and plant diseases and pest infestations.

D. Protection of Natural, Cultural and Historic (NCH) Resources

1. During the recovery phase of a disaster, care must be taken to protect NCH resources. Personnel with the expertise on NCH resources do not normally staff ESF 11. ESF 11 will either be augmented or a meeting will be called to address protection of a NCH resource. Participants may include WVDCH, WVDEP and other organizations as appropriate.

E. Safety of Household Pets

1. WVDA will assist in the coordination for the safety and well-being of household pets. Focus will be missions to assist local organizations, pet shelters, non-profit and other related animal organizations. Local organizations are responsible for managing local pet shelters, but may request assistance through WVSEOC. These requests will be directed to the ESF 11 staff person.

Agency Responsibilities Matrix

Supporting Agency	Acronym	Responsibilities
West Virginia Department of Agriculture	WVDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as state liaison with the U.S. Department of Agriculture • Monitor the incidence rates of animal and plant diseases and pest infestations affecting agriculture • Advise the public to stockpile food and water supplies sufficient for their household for 5 to 7 days • Assist affected local governments as needed with the provision of essential food supplies to mass care facilities • Locating and coordinating provision of surplus food for delivery to the disaster area. • Assists with the safety and wellbeing of household pets. • Identify animals that must be euthanized and minimize the effect of the disease on people, the economy and the environment. • Address the safety and wellbeing of household pets. • Keep accurate logs and other records of all emergency responses. Accomplish After Action Reports and other reports, as appropriate. • Review short-term recovery actions and develop long-term strategies to ensure adequate food supplies.
West Virginia Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management	WVDHSEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate the WVSEOC, if conditions and requirements exceed local resources and state resources are needed. • Assign state and local emergency response/damage assessment teams to the disaster area(s) to determine the extent of damage, industries involved, and the resources needed for energy restoration. These teams may require subject matter experts in order to make a good assessment. • Coordinate press releases concerning agriculture, food supply and natural/cultural resources -related issues using procedures outlined in ESF 15 External Affairs • Coordinate and communicate specific ESF 11-related needs and requirements with county emergency services offices. • Collect, evaluate, and share information on damaged food distribution systems and estimate the impact within the affected areas. • Coordinate the implementation of voluntary and mandatory food supply measures once the Governor has declared a “state of emergency.”
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection	WVDEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize needs and coordinate with the WVDCH • Facilitate the protection of NCH Resources
West Virginia Department of Commerce		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wildlife-related assistance
West Virginia Department of Transportation	WVDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate transportation requests relating to food transportation distribution requirements. Refer to ESF 1 Transportation
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources	WVDHHR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in acquiring and distributing food and water supplies, as necessary

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train personnel and plan for responding to natural or manmade disasters that may have rendered food unsafe for consumption
West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, preserve, protect, promote and present the ideas, arts and artifacts of West Virginia’s heritage
West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety	WVDMAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as primary agency for military support. (See Support Annex 2 Military Support) • Provide bulk food dispensing, as resources allow • Provide emergency food supplies in coordination with WVDHSEM and WVDA as resources allow

Authorities & References

Authorities

West Virginia Code §15-1

West Virginia Code §15-5

West Virginia Code §16

West Virginia Code §19

References

State of West Virginia Emergency Operations Basic Plan, as amended