

COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL RESPONSE PLAN TEMPLATE

PRIMARY AGENCY: Local Law Enforcement Agency

SUPPORT AGENCIES: County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
Local Public Health Department(s)
Fire Department(s)
Emergency Medical Services

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Broadcast and/or Print Media
Dangerous Wild Animal Subject Matter Expert(s)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

1. This plan describes how the county will plan and provide resource support before, during, and after a dangerous wild animal emergency.
2. This plan addresses the issues found in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 935: Possession of Wild Animals and Snakes, fulfills the requirements for a dangerous wild animal county emergency response plan, and outlines the duties of the county dangerous wild animal response team (DWARD).
3. The DWARD shall act as a response **planning** team, NOT necessarily as the responding entity. Agencies identified in this plan may not necessarily be directly involved in an actual dangerous wild animal response. Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency members may be needed in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and at sites around the county to augment and support local law enforcement response efforts.

B. General Provisions

1. In this plan, “dangerous wild animal(s)” refers to both dangerous wild animals and restricted snakes; “dangerous wild animal emergency” refers to any unintentional escape or intentional release of a dangerous wild animal; and “law enforcement officer” refers to a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a township or joint police district, marshal, deputy marshal, municipal police officer, state highway patrol trooper, natural resources law enforcement officer, or park ranger.

2. Dangerous wild animals that pose a serious threat to the safety of Ohioans are those specified by ORC §935.01.

C. Scope

1. This plan applies to all participating departments and agencies of the jurisdictions contained within the geographic boundaries of the county.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation Overview

1. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may occur in the Ohio county.
2. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may pose a threat to the public safety of the county's citizens.
3. Designated Areas of Interest
 - a. There are a number of registered and unregistered dangerous wild animals within the county that may result in dangerous wild animal emergencies. Please refer to Appendix A – Known Dangerous Wild Animal Locations within the County, for a complete location listing of known dangerous wild animals.
4. Potential Hazards
 - a. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may be caused through human acts, inaction, or negligence, by equipment malfunction, or by natural disasters (e.g., tornadoes, earthquakes, severe wind events, flooding).

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may overwhelm any one jurisdiction's response resources.
2. If a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county:
 - a. The county will receive notification from the animal owner or the public via 9-1-1 or the ten-digit emergency line.
 - b. All emergency calls are answered by a public safety access point (PSAP).
 - c. All emergency telephone numbers are maintained by the PSAP's administrating agency.

- d. The receiving dispatcher will immediately notify local law enforcement.
3. Local law enforcement will immediately notify and/or confirm notification with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), the chief law enforcement officer of the township or municipality where the dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred, and the County EMA.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Direction and Control

1. First responders will employ incident command at the emergency site(s).
2. If and when a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county that exceeds the capability of local incident command, local law enforcement will act as the lead agency for dangerous wild animal response.
 - a. If local law enforcement is not available to fulfill the duties of lead agency, orders of succession will be as follows:
 - i. The next available local law enforcement department
 - ii. Fire department
 - iii. State wildlife officer assigned to the county
3. If necessary, the County EMA will activate the EOC to support the direction and control of County personnel and to augment local law enforcement's response efforts. Please refer to the Basic Plan of the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) on EOC activation and operations.
4. Responsibilities of the Support Agencies assigned to this plan include:
 - a. Providing subject matter expertise in the development and subsequent reviews of this plan.
 - b. Providing personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), staging area(s), and County EOC, as necessary.
5. The County EOC will coordinate with and provide logistical support to field personnel through the following activities, if needed:
 - a. Activation of 24-hour emergency communications and coordination of communications with other responding organizations.

- b. Coordination with first responders and recovery personnel assigned to the Incident Command Center and at sites within the high-risk zone(s).
- c. Provision of logistical support in the field for shelter, food, rest, critical incident stress debrief, and appropriate emergency response and recovery activity supplies and personal needs.

B. Determination of the Risk Area

- 1. The Incident Commander will identify and set forth the specific areas at risk, at the time a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs.

C. Relationships among Levels of Government

1. State

- a. State disaster assistance, when provided, will supplement, not substitute, response provided by county and local jurisdictions.

2. County

- a. Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency members may be needed in the County EOC and at sites around the county to augment and support local law enforcement's response efforts.

IV. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Local Law Enforcement (lead)

- 1. Coordinate dangerous wild animal emergency response in the county.
 - a. Receive notification from the animal owner or the public via 9-1-1 or the ten-digit emergency line. All emergency telephone numbers are maintained by the PSAP's administrating agency.
- 2. Immediately notify and/or confirm notification of any dangerous wild animal emergency occurring in the county with ODA, regardless of whether the County or State EOC has been activated, via one of the following 24-hour telephone numbers: 855-DWA-OHIO (855-392-6446), 888-456-3405, or 614-728-6220. These telephone numbers are maintained by ODA.
- 3. Immediately notify and/or confirm notification with the chief law enforcement officer of the township or municipality where the dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred.

4. Immediately notify the County EMA when a dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred and/or is likely to require activation of this plan.
5. Coordinate with ODA for the transport of confiscated and/or captured dangerous wild animals.

B. Fire Department

1. Assist with the coordination of fire response, including, but not limited to, providing response personnel, the identification of resources, and matching resource requests with available resources.

C. Emergency Medical Services

1. Assist with the coordination of emergency medical response, including, but not limited to, providing emergency medical technicians and first aid personnel, the identification of resources, matching resource requests with available resources, and providing information to ensure emergency medical provider safety.

D. County EMA

1. Upon local law enforcement's request, the County EMA will open the EOC and notify the appropriate support agencies listed in this plan, based on the needs of the event. Please refer to the Basic Plan of the County EOP and the County EOC SOP for more information on EOC activation and operations.
2. Support local law enforcement by providing countywide coordination and deployment of assets during the dangerous wild animal response, if necessary.
3. Support public information dispersal and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency.
4. Coordinate with local law enforcement for the identification of training to Support Agencies and provide County EOC training to agency personnel designated for operations in the affected area(s).
5. Coordinate with ODA to identify and contact veterinary personnel and other qualified volunteers, as needed.
6. Request State resource assistance, if necessary.

E. Local Public Health Department

1. Provide public health services, as identified by the incident commander, to minimize zoonotic disease outbreaks and other public health risks that may occur during a dangerous wild animal emergency.
2. Restricted snake owners are required to have access to anti-venom for each species of snake that the person owns, either at the location where each snake is confined or at a hospital. In the event that anti-venoms are needed and are not immediately available, contact the nearest Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) to locate the closest, most readily available antidote cache.
3. Coordinate with the Ohio Department of Health, as needed.

F. Broadcast and/or Print Media

1. Provide general advisories and related public information, coordinated with the appropriate agencies and organizations.

G. Dangerous Wild Animal Subject Matter Expert

1. Provide dangerous wild animal subject matter expertise in the development of this plan.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. Agreements and Understandings

1. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Mutual Aid Agreements (MAA) have been put in place to supplement response efforts, should the event overwhelm any one jurisdiction's capabilities, expertise, and/or resources. Unless otherwise provided, these MOUs and MAAs remain in effect until rescinded or modified.

VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. This plan serves to supplement, not substitute, the County's Basic EOP. Please refer to the County EOP for SOPs on EOC activation and operations.
- B. The County DWART shall conduct subsequent annual reviews of this plan. The County EMA will initiate the review process in accordance with the review of the Basic EOP.
- C. Any time this plan is exercised or implemented during an emergency, a plan review and update process will be initiated by the County DWART, with the County EMA's coordination and facilitation assistance.
- D. Any updates to this plan shall be submitted to the State Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission (DWAERC) through ODA. If the annual review

has been conducted and no updates are recommended, the DWART shall submit a message to the DWAERC stating that fact.

VII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

A. Authorities

1. Ohio Revised Code

a. Chapter 935 – Possession of Dangerous Wild Animals and Snakes

- i. Per ORC §935.011, the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture has authority to recommend to the General Assembly species of animals and snakes to be included in the definition of “dangerous wild animal.” Animals may not be added to the ORC without approval from the General Assembly.
- ii. Per ORC §935.16 and 22, law enforcement, or any other responsive political subdivision within the state of Ohio, may destroy any escaped or released dangerous wild animal that poses a threat to public safety. Furthermore, the officer(s) may not be held liable for damages in a civil action for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that arises from the destruction of the animal(s).
- iii. Per ORC §935.16, the owner of the dangerous wild animal that has escaped or has been released is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the animal’s capture or destruction. The owner shall reimburse the agency(s) responsible for capturing or destroying the animal.

B. References

1. State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan

a. Emergency Support Function-11 – Agriculture

i. Tab C – Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan

VIII. APPENDICES

A. Appendix A – Permitted Dangerous Wild Animal Locations within the County