

HSUS DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM (DART)
HURRICANE KATRINA
General Deployment Information

Disaster response is a hazardous activity and requires a certain kind of person.

Life at a disaster includes heat, humidity, and sun; uncertain accommodations; debris; flooding; uncertain encounters with distressed animal, both domestic and wildlife; sanitation issues (makeshift showers and sanitation); lack of power and communication (even cell phone reception is erratic).

Most importantly, you must be a trained professional or experienced volunteer in animal control, animal care, technical rescue, veterinary medicine (including vet tech), or emergency or military response. Previous experience working in a disaster or emergency situation is important.

The HSUS has training in disaster response and emergency sheltering. This training combined with independent study and local emergency response experience helps prepare you for disaster response.

To be a valuable responder, you must be flexible and willing to do whatever is needed, even if it is not what you thought you would do when you signed on. Our team leaders will make every effort to fit the job to your skills. They will never put you in a situation where you feel unsafe or threaten the safety of the team. And there will be times when you may have to wait until other events are sorted out before you can get into the action.

Activities of disaster responders include: Animal sheltering, daily care, cage cleaning, administrative work, managing supplies, communications, rescue, transport, donation and volunteer management, damage assessment, transport coordination, and many other tasks.

TRAVEL:

- Most volunteers who are deployed travel by vehicle to the disaster area.

- If The HSUS deploys you and asks you to travel by ground and respond using your personal or official car, The HSUS will reimburse for fuel.
- If The HSUS has explicitly authorized you to rent a car and has agreed explicitly that The HSUS will pay for it, please use your own charge card. We will reimburse you on your invoice.
- On occasion, The HSUS deploys highly skilled responders. If The HSUS clears you to travel by air, we will give you the name of our travel agent and instructions for arranging your travel.

The HSUS does not reimburse your travel if we do not deploy you officially.

For reimbursement of HSUS-authorized travel, mail your original receipts (no copies), with a cover sheet providing your name, address, organization, contact information, and Social Security number (required by the IRS), and explaining the purpose of each expense. Send this to:

**Responder Reimbursement
HSUS Disaster Services
700 Professional Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20879**

Gasoline Situation:

We recommend that you refill your tank when it gets to half-empty. It may be an issue.

CASH and Valuables. Bring at least \$100 cash in a safe place. Power outages usually mean no ATMs.

VEHICLES NEEDED

- ACO Trucks and vans
- 4WD vehicles
- Trailers
- Your standard ACO gear (animal handling equipment) if traveling by ground

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INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

NOTE: Please LABEL your belongings with your name and phone number, particularly electronics, cameras, other valuables. You are responsible for keeping track of your own equipment and personal effects.

CLOTHING & PERSONAL

- HSUS clothing for identification in the field: hat, shirts, etc. (issued at HSUS Base of Operations)
- Week's supply of response-type clothing (outer, inner, under) appropriate to the weather **LONG PANTS MUST BE WORN IN THE FIELD AND WHEN WORKING WITH ANIMALS**
- Clothing, personal, seasonal for after hours
- Personal first-aid kit
- TWO Week's supply of normal toiletries
- TWO Week's supply of normal medications, plus meds specific to your needs, such as Epi-Pen if allergic to stings
- Sun block
- Protective headgear (sun, rain, cold)
- Hand sanitizer (e.g., Purell)
- Insect repellent: Only DEET is effective.
- Extra eyeglasses/sunglasses/contact lens supplies and case
- Heavy-duty work gloves
- Waterproof gloves (for working with Clorox, etc.)
- Waterproof boots/shoes, sturdy
- Work or hiking boots (steel shank preferred, non-slip bottoms)
- Rain suits / foul weather gear / poncho
- Bathing suit (for showering)

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Reflective vest
- IF AVAILABLE: Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
- IF AVAILABLE: Dry suit if available – NOT WET SUIT!!
- Helmet – construction-type is okay if it can be tightened or has a chin-strap
- Filter masks & filters, bandana (wildfire), surgical gloves, goggles

- Whistle – plastic, loud
- Space blanket

FOOD & WATER

- Canteens/water bottles with a total of at least **ONE WEEK'S SUPPLY OF WATER** if you are going by road, **ONE DAY IF BY AIR**
- Food/snacks, **FOUR-DAY** supply, non-perishable, not requiring heating (peanut butter, cheese crackers, pull-top single-serving cans, dried fruit, pop-tarts, etc.) and that you are used to eating; knife/fork/spoon/opener as needed.
- Day pack or belt pack for equipment & canteens/water bottles
- Water purification system (iodine tablets, filter, etc.) if you have it

SHELTER

- Lightweight sleeping bag, in garbage bag inside stuff sack, with luggage tag
- Sheet ___ Towel
- Tent, in garbage bag inside stuff-sack, with luggage tag
- Tarp(s), ground cloths, etc.

OTHER

- Cell phone, wireless PDA (if you have them), extra batteries, charging cords (car & wall), hands-free device
- FRS or GMRS radios ("talk-about" or similar), batteries, accessories.
- GPS unit
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Multi-tool (not in your carry-on bag)
- Disposable cameras
- Notepad (spiral type)
Pens/pencils/markers/highlighters
- Radio - AM/FM, small, battery-powered - optional
- Bag or backpack (easily portable)
- Your standard ACO gear (animal handling equipment) if traveling by ground
- Other rescue equipment – as available
- MAPS