



Emergency Action Plan for New Hampshire 4-H Animal Events

Statement of Purpose:

This plan outlines guidelines designed to help ensure New Hampshire 4-H Animal Events and Show/events are prepared for emergencies and severe weather conditions.

The following conditions could lead to or indicate an existing or potential emergency:

1. Severe weather (hail, wind, thunder, lightning and flooding)
2. Catastrophic fire
3. Terrorist or violent incidence
4. Medical emergency

Emergency Plan Objectives:

1. Develop a plan which ensures participating youth and adults are safe and secure
2. Develop a plan which ensures spectators are safe and secure
3. Develop a plan which ensures animals are safe and secure as possible
4. Develop a plan with clearly defined places to go for safety in case of an emergency
5. Develop a plan with guidelines on when and how to interrupt or postpone or cancel a show/event/event when necessary
6. Develop a plan which outlines a communication tree to be used in the event of an emergency.

Safety Precautions and Emergency Planning:

Safety is a high priority and must be considered in every aspect of show/event planning. Thorough planning with careful consideration of safety will help minimize the risks of injury to show/event participants, staff, volunteers and animals. Show/event managers are encouraged to consult with safety experts to help ensure adequate safety precautions and medical coverage prior to and during the show/event.

Show/event committees must consider that most emergency personnel are not familiar with animals and may not be aware of factors that may frighten animals and create additional hazards in an emergency. For example, emergency vehicles with flashing lights and sirens may create significant problems for animals and humans on crowded show/event grounds. Every attempt should be made to have an ambulance, paramedic and trained personnel on the grounds the day of the show/event.

Medical personnel on the grounds should be appropriately dressed and stationed in an obvious location so that they can be easily found in the event of an emergency. The location of medical personnel should be clearly indicated by signs, announcements, or other means if the show/event grounds are large and the medical station is not readily visible. If an ambulance with a paramedic is not available, an Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T.) or a qualified first responder with emergency training should be designated and present throughout the show/event. If someone is seriously injured, immediate emergency attention is of utmost importance. Having a first responder on call is not sufficient if a serious injury or emergency medical situation arises.

Emergency phone numbers (ambulance, police department, fire department, veterinarian, etc.) and address and directions for the nearest emergency medical facilities should be posted at the show/event office. Each member of the show/event committee should be aware of the location of emergency personnel on the grounds, emergency phone numbers, and the location of local emergency medical facilities. Emergency personnel should be familiar with the show/event layout and have a map of the show/event grounds.

A first aid kit and fire extinguisher should be located in the secretary's stand or in the show/event office.

A veterinarian should be present throughout the show/event. If this is not possible, a veterinarian should be contacted prior to the show/event and arrangements made for the veterinarian to be "on-call".

Procedures should be in place to quickly respond to severe weather conditions. These procedures should be conveyed to show/event officials, exhibitors, and all show/event participants. "If a lightning detector is not available, use the "Flash-to-Bang" method for measuring lightning distance. See details later in this document.

Spectators and participants need to be aware of all emergency procedures. Emergency procedures should be announced during opening ceremonies, and signs detailing emergency procedures should be posted. Participants should be advised to report problems to the show/event office or announcer's stand if an emergency arises.

Incident report forms must be completed and submitted for all incidents, especially those that may result in an insurance claim.

Responsibilities:

The Emergency Response Coordinator

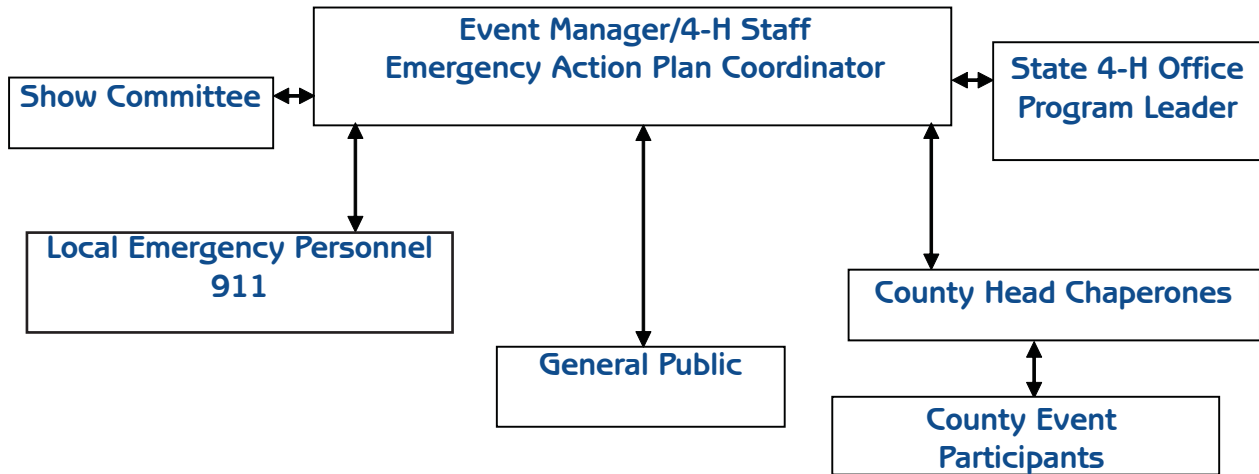
The emergency response coordinator monitors potential emergency situations and implements the Emergency Action Plan when needed. The emergency response coordinator sometimes serves as the show/event manager.

The emergency response coordinator should have a thorough knowledge of the emergency response plan and work with emergency personnel to coordinate an emergency response. The emergency response coordinator should know the show/event layout as well as the location of and contact information for emergency personnel. The emergency response coordinator should provide a map of the show/event grounds to emergency personnel. The emergency response coordinator must be able to communicate immediately with emergency and medical personnel, the show/event manager and committee, along with the 4-H program leader and/or Cooperative Extension administration. The emergency response coordinator should work with the show/event committee and event grounds personnel to direct the flow of animal and human traffic in the event of an emergency or severe weather warning and coordinate the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan.

Responsibilities to include:

- Consult and discuss with show/event committee, 4-H staff, program leader and/or administration any perceived safety issues prior to or during the event
- Contact appropriate state, county, or local emergency agencies as needed including police, fire and emergency services
- Provide Emergency Action Plan orientation for all head chaperones
- Instruct all participants on the procedures to identify and locate all event participants
- Monitor Weather Patterns –
- Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and the morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- National Weather Service - Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions.
- Make decisions
- Provide direct two-way communication with chaperones, EMT personnel, 4-H staff and program leader.

- Clearly announce emergency procedures over public address system as appropriate
- In consultation with the 4-H program leader and /or Cooperative Extension administration, serve as the only news media contact during the emergency event if that is their direction.



Emergency Chain-of Command on Site Notification Chart:

The State 4-H program leader will maintain contact with Extension Administration and the emergency response team.

Severe Weather Emergencies:

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM is defined as a storm that produces wind gusts of 58 mph or greater, and/or hail $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or larger in diameter.

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH is issued when conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop.

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING is issued when severe weather is imminent.

LIGHTNING

During the summer and fall lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect an event or show/event. While the probability of being struck by lightning is extremely low, the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area. Following proper safety precautions will help minimize risk.

The flash-to-bang method is the easiest and most convenient way to estimate how far away lightning is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment, and its distance from the observer. To use the flash-to-bang method, count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is

heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. For example, if an individual counts 15 seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the bang, 15 divided by five equals three; therefore, the lightning flash is approximately 3 miles away.

Lightning awareness should be increased with the first flash of lightning or the first clap of thunder, no matter how far away. The most important aspect to monitor is how far away the lightning is occurring, and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter.

Specific Severe Storm and Lightning-safety Guidelines:

The following steps are recommended by the NSSL (National Severe Storm Laboratory).

1. The Emergency Coordinator should continuously monitor threatening weather and make the decision to remove teams or individuals from exposed show/event areas and postpone the show/event when severe weather is approaching.
2. Monitor Weather Service-issued (NWS) thunderstorm watches and warnings as well as the signs of thunderstorms developing nearby. A watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.
3. Identify the closest designated safe structure or location and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location.

Safe structure or location is defined as:

- Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people, i.e. a building with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
- In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!**

Lightning guidelines

- For lightning, as a minimum, NSSL staff strongly recommends that by the time the Emergency Plan Coordinator obtains a flash-to-bang count of 30 seconds, all individuals should have left the show/event or event site and reached a safe structure or location.

- The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Suspension of show/event classes or event.

- Class stops at the time thunder is heard or lightning is seen.
- Animals and participants leave the show ring/event area immediately.
- Animals/Horses are placed in stalls or pens and youth or adults should not stay with their animals
- Youth stay with county head chaperones and enter safe structure predetermined by show/event committee.
- Spectators will be instructed to move to a safe area predetermined by the show/event committee and event grounds personnel.
- When considering resumption of a show/event or event, NSSL staff recommends that everyone should ideally wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the show/event or activity.
- Fit and Show/event classes (individual classes) will resume at the station they left at the beginning of the station activity.

People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need emergency help quickly. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR: _____

CONTACT NUMBERS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Emergency Action Plan Coordinator	_____	_____
Show/event Manager	_____	_____
EMT	_____	_____
Police	_____	_____
Fire	_____	_____
Hospital	_____	_____
Veterinarian	_____	_____
4-H Staff Person	_____	_____
Program Leader	Wendy Brock	603-862-2187 office 603-841-5155 home 603-498-8004 cell
CE Administration	_____	_____

SHELTER LOCATIONS

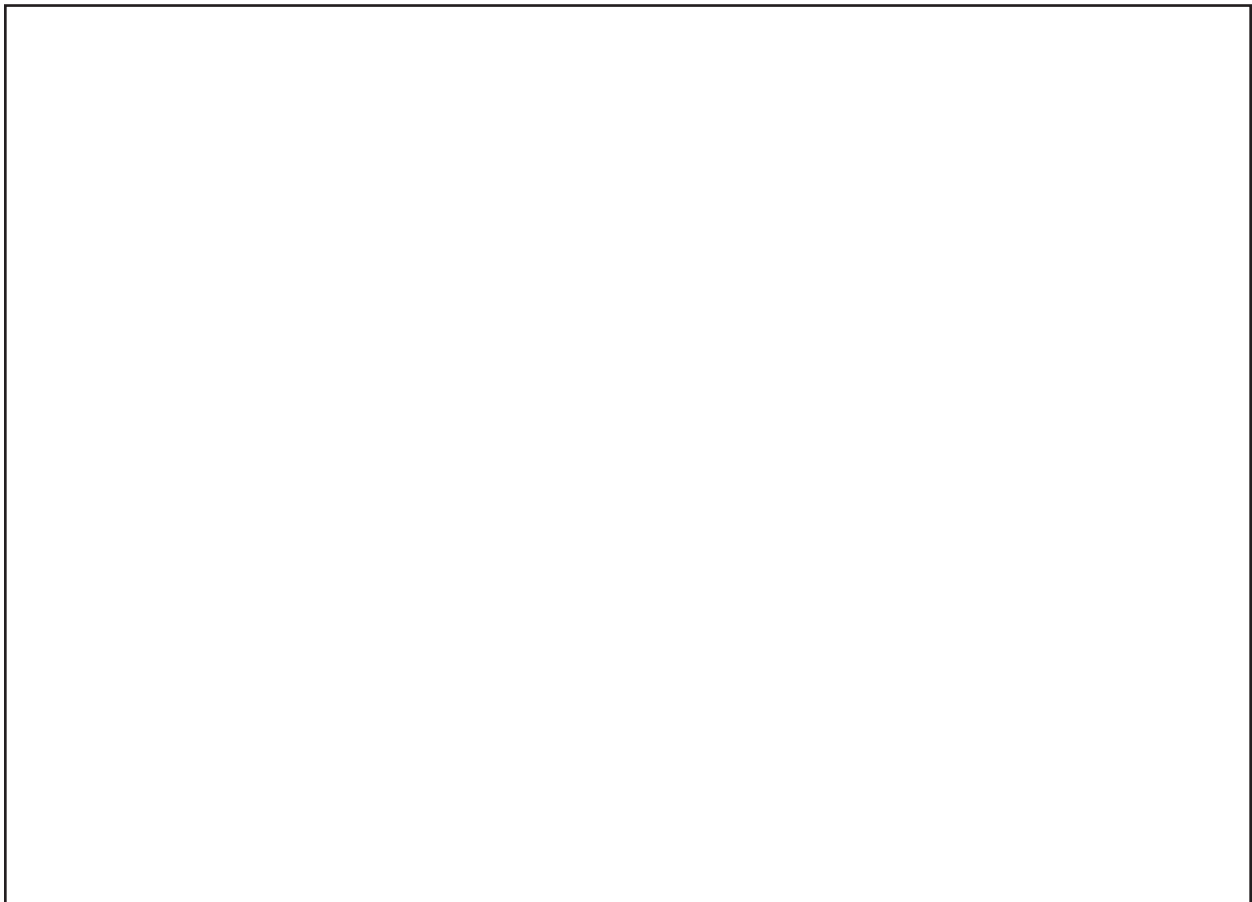
<u>BUILDING/SHELTER NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CAPACITY</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

MAP OF GROUND EVENTS

(hand drawn or photo)

1. Identify and label all roads, structures, event areas, vendors, riding rings, water hydrants, gates, fences, electrical boxes and lines.
2. Identify and label the location of emergency personnel and event staff
3. Identify and label safe shelters.
4. Mark evacuation routes and traffic flow to safe areas.
5. Provide a scale to identify distances

EMERGENCY RESPONSE MAP



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