



County Disaster Risk Identification and Recent Incidents

Trinity County resides within the Inland Region of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) administrative response regions. The Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2024) identifies several potential hazards that could impact the county including, but not limited to, drought, earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe weather, and wildfires. Disaster declarations for the county in recent years have included fires, severe storms, and floods.

Emergency Plans

- Emergency Operations Plan (2019, currently being updated)
- Animal annex not developed

County Animal Services and Capabilities

Animal Services resides under the Trinity County Sheriff's Office and is responsible for the care and shelter of animals during disaster operations. There is only one full time Animal Control Officer (ACO) in Trinity County. Animal Services does have six to ten volunteers that could be utilized during a disaster, but they have not received any formal disaster training. The shelter is run by three part time employees and volunteers. The county has very limited resources for animal response operations.

Response Organizations and Capabilities

Animal Services has an Animal Rescue Team that is allowed in the evacuation zones to evacuate animals if needed and they are familiar with livestock. Members of the Animal Rescue Team do have liability coverage through the county and they cross train with the search and rescue team in the county. A few members of the Animal Rescue Team are also trained in animal technical rescue (ATR). There is also a team through Southern Trinity Fire that are ATR trained for horses.

Trinity County has worked with Cowboy 911 in the past, a non-profit group that provides animal evacuation services during disasters, but has not established a formal agreement with the county.

The Trinity Animal Shelter Auxiliary (TASA) is a non-profit organization that supports the Trinity County Animal Shelter with financial support for medical services and care for sheltered animals.

Equipment and Supply Caches

- 2 County Animal Services animal care caches
- Small trailer for animal transport

Current Operational Area Coordination Efforts

Animal Services does not typically have a seat in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Due to limited staffing, all staff are needed to manage field operations. Animal considerations are managed within the Care and Shelter Branch of the Operations Section of the EOC. The county does not currently facilitate any exercises or trainings that are specific to animal disaster response operations.

Shelter Facilities and Fairgrounds

There is one shelter facility in the county that is utilized as the primary animal shelter during disasters. The shelter has capacity for approximately 24 small animals including a medical isolation area, quarantine area, and some outdoor kennels. Livestock sheltering is limited with a few small corrals. The shelter will often prioritize sheltering cats as owners are often able to keep their dogs with them. If owners are able to evacuate with their animals and keep their animals with them, the county can provide owners with various animal supplies. Once the shelter is full, the county does not have a backup facility identified.

In previous response operations, American Red Cross has not allowed animals into their shelters. But they have allowed evacuees to take the cots outside so that owners can be with their animals. Many people chose to stay outside of the shelter so that they could stay with their animals. The county has a list of pre-determined American Red Cross shelter locations but is currently unsure which of those locations allow for animals.

AT-A-GLANCE

Animal Services:

- 1 Animal Control Officers per ~6K animals in the county

CART:

- Does not currently exist

Additional organizations:

- Trinity Animal Shelter Auxiliary (financial support)
- Animal Services Animal Rescue Team
- Cowboy 911

Level of Veterinary Assistance Needed:



In the past, the county has sheltered animals at the Trinity County Fairgrounds and Event Center, the Hoopa Rodeo Grounds in Humboldt County, and the Shasta District Fair and Event Center in Shasta County. However, fires often occur the same time as the county fairs, making the fairgrounds inaccessible, or are utilized by Cal Fire. In addition, when facilities have been used outside the of the county there have been issues transporting animals and the county has not been able to provide staffing for the shelters. Owners have been required to provide care for their own animals.

Veterinary Capabilities

The county does not have a veterinarian on staff, but there are four local veterinarians that work in the county at three different practices. Many of the veterinary clinics are already at or above operational capacity on a day-to-day basis and there are no large animal veterinarians in the county. The availability of veterinarians is limited and they are not always able to assist during a disaster.

Areas of Potential Improvement

Members of Trinity County identified the following needs:

- Support in development of a county animal annex
- Veterinary support during disaster operations

CVET Support and Integration

In review of the Trinity County animal disaster response capabilities, there are limited capacity to meet the needs of a large number of animals in the county. With only one ACO, the county will likely need to depend on external partners such as other animal disaster response teams to meet high sheltering needs. CVET recommends the identification of potential partners and signing of a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) to document that agreement. In addition, due to the limited veterinary resources in the county, many of which who are already operating at capacity, the need or veterinary support during disaster operations is high. CVET recommends the development of an animal annex to document planned response operations and to incorporate considerations for veterinary care.

Response Partners

