



County Outreach Summary

Imperial



County Disaster Risk Identification and Recent Incidents

Imperial County resides within the Southern Region of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) administrative response regions. Imperial County's Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan lists the county's top hazards as: wildfire, flooding, earthquakes, drought, wind events, and extreme heat/cold. Geographically, Imperial County lies on the U.S./Mexico border and is primarily desert with sparsely populated communities within.

Emergency Plans

- Imperial County Emergency Operations Plan (2025)

County Animal Services and Capabilities

Imperial County Animal and Control is a section within the Imperial County Public Health Department Environmental Health Division. Imperial County Animal Care and Control employs four full-time animal control officers that service unincorporated areas of Imperial County.

Response Organizations and Capabilities

Imperial County does not have an active Community Animal Rescue Team (CART). The Humane Society of Imperial County was mentioned as additional animal care support, primarily focused on housing and care rather than rescue and evacuation. However, there is no formal agreement between Imperial County Animal Care and Control and the humane society outlining disaster response and responsibilities.

Equipment and Supply Caches

- County Animal Services animal care cache

Current Operational Area Coordination Efforts

When the Imperial County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, Imperial County Animal Care and Control reports as a part of the Animal Care Unit within the Operations Section. The Agricultural Commissioner works closely with the Animal Care and Control representative assigned to the EOC.

There are no formal mutual aid agreements for animal resources with neighboring counties. Emergency management officials have not conducted any animal related exercises, either tabletop or functional, in recent history.

Shelter Facilities and Fairgrounds

Animal Care and Control operates a shelter facility in El Centro. In addition, Imperial County Fairgrounds, (Imperial Valley Expo), is identified as primary site for disaster animal sheltering and is expected to accommodate both small and large animals during a disaster. While the fairgrounds have offered support to other counties during past disasters, they have not recently housed animals displaced from Imperial County or neighboring areas. The local Humane Society may also assist by providing additional sheltering support in needed during a disaster.

Veterinary Capabilities

Imperial County has very limited veterinary resources, with one practicing veterinarian located within the county. This private veterinarian provides routine care for animals under the daily supervision of Animal Care and Control. A few traveling veterinarians visit periodically to assist with cattle operations, but none have formal contracts or agreements with the county.

AT-A-GLANCE

Animal Services:

- 1 Animal Control Officer per 50K animals in the county

CART:

- Does not currently exist

Additional organizations:

- Imperial Valley Fairgrounds



Level of Veterinary Assistance Needed:

HIGH

Areas of Potential Improvement

Members of Imperial County identified the following needs:

- Supplemental veterinary care during a disaster
- Development of disaster animal response plans
- Animal response exercise development and design

CVET Support and Integration

Imperial County has very limited veterinary services, and a significant disaster would create an immediate need for additional veterinary support. CVET can mobilize resources to provide sustained veterinary care during such events. With veterinary contacts and responders in adjacent counties, CVET can support single-incident events and serve as a veterinary resource. CVET also has the capacity to assist in developing an animal disaster response plan at the Animal Care and Control level or as an annex to the county Emergency Operations Plan. Additionally, CVET can design and facilitate exercises for county agencies to review and test plans and protocols related to disaster animal response..

Response Partners

