

**OHIO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN  
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #11 – FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**TAB C – DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL RESPONSE PLAN**

**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Ohio Dept. of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM)  
Ohio Department of Health (ODH)  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)  
Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)  
Ohio Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)  
Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA)  
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)  
Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association (OFCA)

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose

1. This plan describes how the Primary Agency (ODA), Support Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations 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, Sections 27 and 28.

B. General Provisions

1. Responsibilities of the Agencies assigned to this plan include:
  - a. Planning resource support before and managing resource support during a dangerous wild animal emergency. Support during an emergency includes the acquisition, processing, and distribution of physical resources, as well as the request for and use of contractors when the State of Ohio's resources may be inadequate.
  - b. Staff the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during a dangerous wild animal response which requires activation of the State EOC.

- c. Coordinate with other Support Agencies in the State EOC to ensure the most effective use of personnel and equipment, coordinate communications, and cooperate on emergency mission fulfillment.
2. 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.
3. Dangerous wild animals that pose a serious threat to the safety of Ohioans are those specified by ORC §935.01. The Director of ODA may add additional animals to this list with approval from the General Assembly.
4. County-based Dangerous Wild Animal Response Teams (DWARD) will develop response plans for and respond at the local level.

## **II. SITUATION**

- A. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may occur in the State of Ohio.
- B. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may pose a threat to the public safety of Ohioans.
- C. 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).
- D. There are a number of public and private animal facilities, within Ohio, that are at risk for dangerous wild animal emergencies.

## **III. ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may overwhelm local resources.
- B. If a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs, ODA will receive notification from the animal owner or from law enforcement 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 will be maintained by the ODA.

- C. ODA will notify Ohio EMA immediately in the event that a dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred in the State of Ohio.

#### **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

##### **A. Overview of State Direction and Control**

1. Local responders will employ incident command at the emergency site(s).
2. If and when a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in Ohio that exceeds the capability of local incident command, ODA will act as the lead agency for dangerous wild animal emergency response for the State of Ohio. ODA liaisons will be available to staff the State EOC, to coordinate with response and recovery personnel at the site(s) of the emergency, and to work with the Support Agencies specified in this plan to respond to the needs of the affected communities.
3. If necessary, Ohio EMA will activate the State EOC to support the direction and control of State personnel. Ohio EMA will notify the Support Agencies assigned to this plan when an emergency requires their presence in the State EOC.
4. Agency representatives supporting ORC §935.27 and 28, Direction and Control will include personnel from the ODA (lead), the Governor's Office, SFM, ODH, ODNR, ODOT, Ohio EMA, OEMS, OSHP, BSSA, OACP, and OFCA.
5. The State EOC will coordinate with and provide logistical support to field personnel through the following activities:
  - a. Activation of 24-hour emergency communications.
  - b. Coordination of communications with other responding organizations.
  - c. Coordination with local response and recovery personnel (i.e., DWART) assigned to the local Incident Command Center and at site(s) within the high-risk zone(s).
  - d. 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. Overview of local DWARTs**

1. Ohio has adopted a scaleable, team-based system for dangerous wild animal response. Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the State of Ohio (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency members may be needed in the State EOC and at sites around the State to assist local communities and augment and support

ODA, SFM, ODH, ODNR, ODOT, Ohio EMA, OEMS, OSHP, BSSA, OACP, and OFCA.

2. DWARTs shall be made up of the following representatives at the local level, per ORC §937.27(C)(2):
  - a. Law Enforcement Personnel
  - b. Firefighting and First Aid Personnel
  - c. Emergency Management Personnel
  - d. Health Personnel
  - e. Broadcast and Print Media Personnel
  - f. Elected Local Officials
  - g. Dangerous Wild Animal Owner Representatives
3. The State Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission (DWAERC) also recommends the addition of the following representatives to local DWARTs, if possible:
  - a. Veterinarians
  - b. Public Health Personnel (i.e., Public Health Departments and/or Providers)
4. Personnel serving on local DWARTs will follow the protocols set forth by the County Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Plan.
5. Personnel serving on local DWARTs will coordinate with personnel from the Support Agencies assigned to this plan at the Incident Command Center and at site(s) where DWARTs are assigned within the high-risk zone(s).

#### C. Determination of the Risk Area

1. Incident Commanders will identify and set forth the respective areas at risk during a dangerous wild animal emergency.

#### D. Relationships among Levels of Government

1. State
  - a. State of Ohio Primary and Support Agencies for dangerous wild animal response will work together throughout emergency response and recovery

operations to ensure that the affected communities' needs are identified, assessed, and prioritized.

2. Local

a. Local-level emergency requests for State resources and services that are communicated to the State EOC will be directed to the appropriate Support Agency personnel for action.

3. The Comparison Chart for Dangerous Wild Animal Response, shown below, lists organizations with emergency management responsibilities for dangerous wild animal response at the State and local levels. These organizations may work together as teams in order to act as expeditiously as possible to respond to a dangerous wild animal emergency. This comparison chart ensures that these organizations have the proper interface when activated.

<b>Comparison Chart for Dangerous Wild Animal Response</b>	
<b><u>State Organizations</u></b>	<b><u>Local Organizations</u></b>
Ohio Department of Agriculture	Local Agriculture Organizations Licensed Veterinarians
Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association	Local Fire Departments
Ohio Department of Health	Local Public Health (e.g., Public Health Departments and Providers)
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Local Parks Departments (i.e., County, City, and Metro Parks)
Ohio Department of Transportation	County Engineer's Offices County Highway Departments
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	County Emergency Management Agencies
Ohio Emergency Medical Services	Local First Aid Personnel (e.g., Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians)
Ohio State Highway Patrol Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Local Law Enforcement (e.g., County Sheriff's Offices, Police Departments)
*	Local Elected Officials
*	Local Broadcast and Print Media
*	Dangerous Wild Animal Owner Representatives
*	Local Zoos (See Appendix A – Accredited Zoos and Aquariums in Ohio)

\*There is no comparable organization at this level to coordinate with the organization listed.

## V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Organization

1. ODA is the lead agency for dangerous wild animal emergency response for the State of Ohio. ODA liaisons will be available to staff the State EOC, to coordinate with response and recovery personnel at the site(s) of the emergency, and will work with the Support Agencies assigned to this plan to respond to the needs of the affected communities.
2. If and when a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the State of Ohio that exceeds the capability of local response, Ohio EMA will activate the State EOC to support the direction and control of State personnel. Ohio EMA will notify the Support Agencies assigned to this plan when an emergency requires their presence in the State EOC.

### B. Assignment of Responsibility

1. ODA (Primary)
  - a. Coordinate State-level dangerous wild animal emergency response in Ohio.
  - b. Ensure close coordination and cooperation among regional, State, and local agencies, and with the private sector and nongovernmental associations, to facilitate response efforts.
  - c. ODA will receive notification from either the animal owner or from law enforcement 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 will be maintained by the ODA.
  - d. Notify the OSHP Hub Watch Desk if and when a dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred.
  - e. Coordinate with Ohio EMA when a dangerous wild animal emergency is likely to require activation of this plan. Please refer to the Basic Plan of the Ohio Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the State EOC Standard Operations Plan (SOP) for procedures on State EOC activation and operations.
  - f. Coordinate with peer organizations for assessment of the situation and regularly report the results of the assessment(s) back to Ohio EMA.
  - g. Coordinate with both response and recovery personnel at the emergency site(s).

- h. Provide personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), at the staging area(s), and at the local EOC(s).
  - i. Coordination of the transport of confiscated and/or captured dangerous wild animals.
  - j. Temporary housing of confiscated and/or captured dangerous wild animals.
  - k. Coordinate with the appropriate organizations (e.g., Ohio Veterinary Medical Association) for deployment of veterinarians to the site(s) of the emergency, if needed.
  - l. Coordinate with local law enforcement organizations for site security and related issues.
  - m. Coordinate with local zoos for animal subject matter expertise, if needed.
  - n. Provide advisories and related public information, coordinated with the appropriate agencies and organizations.
  - o. Coordinate training and education for dangerous wild animal emergency response activities and exercises.
2. SFM
- a. Provide personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), at the staging area(s), and at the local EOC(s).
  - b. Provide general and unique services and special response equipment (e.g., Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle, State Incident Management Trailers, swift water rescue equipment, rope rescue cache, structural collapse and mobile air trailers), as needed.
3. ODH
- a. Coordinate with ODA for inspections, investigations, and advisories, if needed.
  - b. Provide laboratory personnel and space, as available, to support laboratory surge capacity.
  - c. Assist with laboratory testing of animal specimen samples, if needed.
  - d. Provide subject matter expertise and information on potential animal diseases, which may be transmitted to humans (i.e., zoonotic disease).

- e. Coordinate with Ohio EMA, ODA, and ODNR if a zoonotic condition exists in the escaped or released dangerous wild animal(s).
- f. Provide information and direction to Support Agencies on human infectious disease transmission, prevention, treatment, and infection control practices, including isolation/quarantine and disinfection/decontamination, if needed, during a dangerous wild animal emergency.
- g. Assist with public health and/or medical advisories and news releases, if needed.
- h. Coordinate with the appropriate organizations for deployment of local health department personnel to the site(s) of the emergency, if needed.
- i. Assist in the coordination of public information and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency.

#### 4. ODNR

- a. Assist with law enforcement support, as feasible.
- b. Provide surveillance related to disease in wild animals.
- c. Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), if needed.
- d. Conduct a risk assessment of each county's registered, dangerous wild animal population. Assessments may, in turn, be used by responders to assist in prioritizing response efforts and attending to animal needs during a dangerous wild animal emergency.
- e. Provide personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), at the staging area(s), and at the local EOC(s).
- f. Provide general and unique services and special response equipment (e.g., all-terrain vehicles, trucks, communications vehicles, shelter), as needed.

#### 5. ODOT

- a. Utilize the Traffic Management Center to monitor roadway traffic in the affected area(s) throughout the emergency.

- b. Assist with the implementation of site-specific traffic control (e.g., placement of signage, establishment of roadblocks, roadway mapping), as requested by the incident commander.

## 6. Ohio EMA

- a. Upon notification of a dangerous wild animal emergency, contact the ODA to assess whether this plan requires activation.
- b. Contact the applicable county EMA director to ensure local notification has been made and/or offer support from the State, if necessary.
- c. If the ODA's assessments indicate that a State-level response operation may be required, Ohio EMA will notify the appropriate organizations listed in this plan based on the needs of the event.
- d. Open the State EOC to assess and monitor mission requests, as appropriate.
- e. Support ODA by providing statewide coordination and deployment of assets during dangerous wild animal response.
- f. Support public information and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency.
- g. Coordinate with ODA for the provision of training to Support Agencies and provide training to agency personnel designated for operations in the affected area(s).
- h. Employ the Ohio Responds Database to identify and contact veterinary personnel and other qualified volunteers to provide special services (e.g., surveillance, euthanasia, quarantine), as needed.
- i. Assist in identifying and selecting contractors.
- j. Provide personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), at the staging area(s), and at the local EOC(s).
- k. Provide general and unique services and equipment (e.g., communications vehicle), as needed.

## 7. OEMS

- a. Provide subject matter expertise on matters related to emergency medical services.
  - b. In conjunction with the Ohio Fire Response Plan and SFM, assist with the coordination of EMS response, including, but not limited to the identification of available resources, matching resource requests with available resources, and providing information to ensure EMS provider safety.
8. OSHP
- a. Initiate dangerous wild animal emergency e-notification procedures if and when notified of a dangerous wild animal emergency by ODA.
  - b. Notify the applicable county Sheriff and local OSHP post/dispatch center through the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS).
  - c. Share all dangerous wild animal emergency information with the on-call Ohio EMA Duty.
  - d. Assist with law enforcement support, as feasible.
  - e. Provide personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), at the staging area(s), and at the local EOC(s).
  - f. Assist with community control to limited access areas.
  - g. Assist with the implementation of site-specific traffic control and security plans.
  - h. Provide general and unique services and equipment (e.g., communications vehicles, armored vehicles, aviation assets, special response teams, mechanical robot), as needed.
  - i. Assist with dangerous wild animal search.
9. BSSA
- a. Encourage the development of memorandums of understanding (MOU) and mutual aid agreements (MAA) among sheriff's offices in Ohio.
10. OACP
- a. Encourage the development of MOUs and MAAs among police departments in Ohio.
11. OFCA

- a. Encourage the development of MOUs and MAAs among fire departments in Ohio.

## **VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Agencies assigned to this plan will maintain organizational SOPs and resource listings that document the notification listings, procedures, policies, equipment, supplies, and services available to them during dangerous wild animal emergencies. ODA will maintain a contact list for all of their internal personnel having responsibilities for dangerous wild animal response.
- B. Agencies listed in this plan are responsible for maintaining records of expenditures for equipment, supplies, services, overtime costs, and related expenses for response and recovery actions.
- C. Unique resources that each Agency may have available during a dangerous wild animal emergency response are listed in Appendix B – State-level Dangerous Wild Animal Capture/Control Resource Inventory.

## **VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. The State DWAERC is responsible for the periodic review and update of this plan. When this plan is exercised or implemented during an emergency, the DWAERC, with Ohio EMA's coordination and facilitation assistance, will initiate a plan review and update process.

## **VIII. APPENDICES**

- A. Appendix A – Accredited Zoos and Aquariums in Ohio
- B. Appendix B – State-level Dangerous Wild Animal Capture/Control Resource Inventory

## **IX. REFERENCES**

- A. Ohio Revised Code
  1. Chapter 935 – Possession of Dangerous Wild Animals and Snakes

- a. Section 27 – Dangerous Wild Animal State Emergency Response Commission
  - b. Section 28 – County Emergency Response Plan
- B. OSHP Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Notification Protocol
- a. Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Checklist

## Appendix A – Accredited Zoos and Aquariums in Ohio

<b>Zoo</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Address</b>
African Safari Wildlife Park	(419) 732-3606	267 South Lightner Road Port Clinton, Ohio 43452
Akron Zoological Park	(330) 375-2550	500 Edgewood Avenue Akron, Ohio 44307
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery	(937) 275-7431	2600 DeWeese Parkway Dayton, Ohio 45414
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden	(513) 487-3366	3400 Vine Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45220
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	(216) 635-3360	3900 Wildlife Way Cleveland, Ohio 44109
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium	(614) 645-3400	4850 West Powell Road Powell, Ohio 43065
The Wilds	(740) 638-5030	14000 International Road Cumberland, Ohio 43732
Toledo Zoological Gardens	(419) 385-5721	2700 Broadway Toledo, Ohio 43609

The zoos listed above are accredited with the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

## Appendix B – State-level Dangerous Wild Animal Capture/Control Resource Inventory

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
Ohio Department of Agriculture	Training and Exercise Personnel Laboratory Facilities and Personnel Veterinary Subject Matter Expertise Temporary Housing Facility for Dangerous Wild Animals	n/a
Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal	Fire Response Personnel	Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle Swift Water Rescue Equipment Rope Rescue Cache Structural Collapse Trailer Mobile Air Trailer State Incident Management Trailer
Ohio Department of Health	Laboratory Facility and Personnel Zoonotic Subject Matter Expertise	n/a
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	Dangerous Wild Animal Surveillance Subject Matter Expertise Communications Technicians Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officers	Portable Shelter for Response Personnel Communications Vehicles All-Terrain Vehicles 4x4 Trucks
Ohio Department of Transportation	Roadway Mapping Traffic Management Center	Roadway Signage
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	Communications Technicians State Emergency Operations Center Ohio Responds Volunteer Database Emergency Management Liaisons	Communications Vehicle
Ohio Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medical Services (i.e., Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician, and Other First Aid) Subject Matter Expertise	n/a
Ohio State Highway Patrol	Communications Technicians Special Response Teams Law Enforcement Personnel Aerial-Search Personnel	Communications Vehicles 2 Armored Vehicles Aerial-Search Assets (Aviation) Mechanical Robot
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	Communications Technicians Ohio Law Enforcement Response Plan Law Enforcement Personnel	Communications Vehicles
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	Communications Technicians Law Enforcement Personnel	Communications Vehicles
Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association	Ohio Fire Response Plan Fire Response Personnel Fire Department-based Emergency Medical Services (i.e., Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Other First Aid) Personnel	Terrain-Specific Response Equipment Aerial/Ladder Apparatus All-Terrain Vehicles Emergency Medical Services Vehicles (i.e., ambulances) 4x4 Trucks Lighting