

Conclusion: Utilizing tools for empowering the population rather than instilling fear or other deterrence measures are more effective approaches to increase compliance with governmental directives. Furthermore, the results highlight the importance of adapting and adjusting risk communication efforts to accommodate specific concerns and hesitations demonstrated by distinct groups during an evolving pandemic. Public health officials and authorities need to engage the public in resilience building activities to promote compliance.

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World Organization for Animal Health Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe Survey on Veterinary Service Preparedness for Natural Disasters

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Introduction: National Veterinary Services of World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) are responsible for a wide range of activities including animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health. The WOAH European Region member countries were surveyed to determine and quantify the level of capacity to respond to natural disasters, determine the types of disasters experienced, determine their levels of education and training and identify gaps in capacity and specific needs of Member Countries for disaster response.

Method: A web-based Qualtrics survey on Animal Welfare in Natural Disasters was conducted by Lincoln Memorial University in conjunction with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe. The 50 question survey was distributed by email link to Member Countries points of contact provide by OIE. The survey was emailed to 53 OIE European Member Countries with reminder emails to complete. Survey results were compiled and tabulated. Only aggregate data is published and presented.

Results: Forty-nine countries responded to the survey for a 92% completion rate. Floods, earthquakes and fire were the three most commonly encountered disasters. Fifty-two percent indicated they incorporated animal welfare into their disaster planning. Thirty-one percent indicated they had no or limited legal authority to manage animal emergencies in natural disasters. The species covered in the national response plan ranged from laboratory animals at 17% to livestock at 48%. Eighty-two percent had no or limited standard operating procedures and 73% had no training to respond to animal welfare in disasters. Budgets, trained personnel, equipment/supplies and legal authority were the most frequently identified gaps

Conclusion: The survey demonstrated there is a wide range of European Member Countries capacity to respond to animal welfare in natural disasters. This provides the baseline for the OIE Platform for Animal Welfare Europe to provide focused and actionable support to Member Countries

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No Ordinary Moments—Improving the Response to Disasters by Enhancing the Incident Command System

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Introduction: Disasters have adversely affected human life since the beginning of our existence. In response, societies have attempted to improve disaster response & reduce the consequences of disasters by developing standardized organizational arrangements, often known as Incident Command Systems (ICS). These ICS response systems have a military heritage in hierarchical organizational command & control (C2) that is authoritative by nature and fits well with bureaucratic organization. While emergency service agencies have embraced ICS, other agencies often involved in community-level disaster response, such as public health, non-government organizations and community groups, have not. Although ICS have become the backbone of disaster management (DM) policy in Australia and overseas, worldwide debate over the effectiveness of ICS continues. Therefore, this study investigated ICS systems used worldwide to aid in the development of an improved conceptual framework for managing the response to modern-day disasters, for all agencies, at all levels and across all hazard types.

Method: Phase one involved a review and critical analysis of the literature. Phase two used inductive research methods to gain a better understanding of the barriers & facilitators of ICS to the multi-agency disaster response. Two studies were conducted in this phase: Study one used semi-structured interviews with key informants involved in the 2018 Central Queensland Bushfire & 2019 North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough Flood & Study two participants from any disaster. Phase three undertook a policy analysis of recent disaster reviews and inquiries. This was triangulated with previous findings and presented to an expert panel by way of a 2-round modified Delphi.

Results: The most significant outcome of this research was the improved understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of ICS within the context of multi-agency engagement in disaster management.

Conclusion: Development of conceptual framework based on modifications to the ICS principles and includes other phases of the DM continuum with psychological aspects taken into consideration.

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One Health: How to Build an Italian Model

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Introduction: The Concept of One Health is a cross-sectoral approach that aims at the protection of humans, animals, and the environment acknowledging their interconnection at a global, regional and local level.