

Response to Natural Disasters

Purpose:

To identify key features of the Emergency Response Plan as it relates to natural disasters.

Procedure:

- 1) ACF administrative staff will periodically convene to assess the risk of inclement conditions that may affect the health and well-being of animal subjects. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, power failure, severe thunderstorm, winter storm, tornado, fire, earthquake, and drought.
- 2) In the event of an emergency situation, employees are the primary concern. Every attempt must be made to prevent distressful conditions for animals maintained within the ACF (see "Emergency Response Plan Overview").
- 3) During periods of natural disaster, research animals must receive basic care such as food, potable water, relief from temperature extremes (defined for these purposes as 45-85° F), and sanitation of enclosures. If these conditions are not possible to maintain, relief from the disaster is improbable, or conditions have rendered an animal inappropriate for experimental use, then the animal(s) affected must be moved to another facility or humanely euthanized as expediently as possible.
- 4) In the event that basic care cannot be provided for animal subjects within the ACF, evacuation to a suitable research animal facility may be attempted. During evacuation, rodents are to be transported in filter-topped cages. If evacuation is elected, and there remain some animals which cannot be easily transported due to illness or experimental condition, these animals must be euthanized.
- 5) During any natural disaster, every attempt should be made to remove the pressure regulators from gas cylinders.
- 6) Flashlights must be maintained in the Loyola surgical suites and the ACF main office.