



North Valley Animal Disaster Group Standard Operating Guidelines

Title: SAFETY

Objective: Provide as safe a working environment as possible

Description:

Safety must always come first. All volunteers are expected to obey safety rules, exercise caution, and use good judgment. Everybody must remain mindful of personal safety at all times. If you don't protect and care for yourself, you will be unable to protect and care for the animals.

- Remember your priorities at every incident:
 - #1 Yourself
 - #2 Teammates
 - #3 Human Victims
 - #4 Animal Victims
- A Safety Officer will always be assigned to every incident.
- Additional Assistant Safety Officers may be assigned to different areas of concern.
- Volunteers must know themselves and their own limitations best.
- Take the time to put on personal protection equipment: PPEs, gloves, goggles, etc.
- Keep yourself fed and hydrated.
- If you need a break – take one. Don't rely on caffeine or other supplements to give you false energy.
- Bring personal care items and medications.
- Consider all downed power lines to be electrically hot. Do not touch or drive over.
- Follow proper sanitation, isolation, and zoonotic protocols. Refer to the specific SOGs for additional information.
- If you have food allergies or special dietary restrictions, bring food you're able to eat.
- If you don't know how to use a piece of equipment, ask for help.
- Use proper technique when lifting. Get help with heavy or awkward items.
- Never use knives or box cutters to cut zip ties. Only use scissors or wire cutters.
- Rabies pre-exposure vaccinations are highly recommended, especially to folk working in the field.

- Be aware of heat issues while working. Hydrate and try to stay in the shade as much as possible.
- Always know where the nearest hospital is located (human and animal).
- Triage out aggressive animals or get the trained professional resources to safely deal with them.
- Do not eat spoiled food that has been left out too long.
- Address compassion fatigue and psychological first aid as best you can. Obtain professional help if necessary.

Related Documents Attached: n/a

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