



Central Kootenay Regional District
Mass Carcass Disposal
Discussion Based Exercise

Jan 19, 2011

After Action Report

Report developed by:



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Emergency Management Division

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Administrative Handling Instructions

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- Emergency Coordinators – Central Kootenay Regional District

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 19th 2011, a discussion based exercise was held in Creston involving 24 participants from a wide range of agricultural stakeholder groups and agencies. The purpose of this exercise was to have participants explore and discuss how the RDCK Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan could be used to provide a framework for carcass disposal operations in an emergency situation. In this regard, participants offered their feedback about the plan as well as providing insight into additional issues that may arise during a mass carcass disposal emergency.

A number of recommendations came out of the exercise discussions. These recommendations may be put in place in order to resolve issues related to mass carcass disposal. They are:

- 1. Develop a communication document (1 page pamphlet) for producers that would outline who to contact in a mass carcass disposal emergency and the support that is available to producers.**
- 2. Inform local elected officials of the importance of supporting local producers in developing solutions to mass carcass disposal solutions**
- 3. Review, revise and distribute the RDCK Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal reference guide which contains the key RDCK FAMCDEP information such as checklists, contact lists, resource lists, appropriate burial methods, etc**
- 4. Utilize information shared during exercise to update/revise current RDCK FAMCDEP.**
- 5. Pre-determine suitable burial sites within the region.**
- 6. Research emergency abattoir and disposal options in Kootenays.**
- 7. Include additional producers in future training/exercises.**

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PART 1 – EXERCISE OVERVIEW

A. Exercise Name

The exercise is known as the “Central Kootenay Regional District Mass Carcass Disposal Exercise”.

B. Date and Location

The Jan 19, 2011 exercise was held at the Creston Municipal building.

C. Scenario

The scenario will be a dairy barn roof collapse during a severe weather emergency in the Creston Valley with the resulting requirement for mass carcass disposal of farm animals.

While we are using the roof collapse scenario in this exercise the discussion would apply to mass carcass disposal for other risks outlined in the plan (flood, wildfire)

D. Type of Exercise

This exercise is best described as a Hybrid Workshop –Tabletop exercise.

A Workshop is a type of discussion-based exercises used to draw information from participants regarding a specific topic.

A Tabletop exercise is a facilitated conversation in which participants discuss aspects of a specific emergency scenario. The aim of the exercise is typically to have participants explore how they would apply specific plans, policies, procedures and training in how they would respond to a specific emergency event.

This exercise combined aspects of each of these exercises categories to create a unique training and exercise experience, allowing participants to explore and provide feedback on the Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan.

In addition, the scenario and questions were sent to the participants before the exercise for them to review and prepare (Appendix 1)

E. Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to explore and discuss the following emergency operations as outlined in the RDCK Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan (RDCK FAMCDEP):

- Concept of operations for mass carcass disposal operations
- Methodologies for carcass disposal
- Resources for carcass disposal
- Compensation and recovery

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by involving the following players:

- RDCK Staff (including waste management staff and EOC staff)
- Town of Creston staff
- First Nations
- Producers
 - Dairy Farmers
 - Cattle Farmers
- Creston Pet Adoption and Welfare (PAWS)
- SPCA
- Industry
 - Creston Dairy Association
 - BC Milk Producers Association
 - Creston Beef Growers Association (and/or Kootenay Beef Growers Association, BC Cattleman's Association)
 - BC Farm Animal Care Council
 - West Coast Reductions
 - Local Veterinarian
 - Cattle haulers
 - Brand Inspectors
 - Insurance Providers
- BC Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment MOE
- Emergency Management BC
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Interior Health
- Investment Agriculture Foundation

in a tabletop/workshop exercise utilizing a barn roof collapse scenario during a severe weather emergency in the Creston Valley

F. Exercise Objectives

1. Review activation procedures of RDCK FAMCDEP
 - Expected actions
 - Discuss when the FAMCDEP would be activated
 - List who could activate
 - Outline steps taken to activate
 - Determine if activation process in plan realistically outlines what would happen
2. Validate the concept of operations for disposal operations as outlined in the RDCK FAMCDEP
 - Expected Actions
 - Identify roles and responsibilities for a mass carcass disposal event
 - List tasks that need to be completed

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- Outline the response structure for a FAD and non FAD response
 - Discuss the safety and environmental issues
 - Outline how media information will be developed and disseminated
3. Review and assess methodologies and resources for mass carcass disposal as outlined in the RDCK FAMCDEP
 - Expected Actions
 - Define the disposal methods that are available
 - Discuss the issues that are related to disposal of bovine carcasses
 4. Identify any potential improvements to the RDCK FAMCDEP
 - Expected Actions
 - Identify any areas where improvements can be made to the RDCK FAMCDEP
 5. Develop recommendations for solving the resource shortfalls and disposal challenges listed in RDCK FAMCDEP
 - Expected Actions
 - List resources needed for disposal
 - Identify resource shortfalls
 - Identify solutions to the resource shortfalls
 - List disposal challenges
 - Identify solutions to disposal challenges
 6. Review framework used for compensation and recovery
 - Expected Actions
 - Identify who would pay for the different components of the carcass disposal operation
 - Outline the process for private or government support (provincial or federal)
 - List what records must be kept

G. Exercise Design Team

The exercise design team consisted of a representative from most of the player groups outlined in the purpose statement.

H. Exercise Agenda

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1100 | Exercise Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Introductions• Exercise Format/Instructions |
| 1130 | Initial Scenario: Severe Weather Occurring – Initial Response <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Discussion |

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- | | |
|------|--|
| 1200 | Scenario 2: Roof Collapses - Managing the Mass Carcass Disposal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Discussion |
| 1230 | Break |
| 1300 | Scenario 2: Roof Collapses - Managing the Mass Carcass Disposal (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Discussion |
| 1415 | Scenario 3: Severe Weather Abates - Compensation and Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Discussion |
| 1445 | Debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengths/Weaknesses• Closing Statements |
| 1500 | Adjournment |

I. Exercise Evaluation

The exercise was not formally evaluated, as its purpose was simply to provide a venue to carry out specific conversations. During these conversations, key points were captured on a flip chart. Additionally, all exercise participants were provided the opportunity to complete a Participant Feedback Form which solicited written feedback on the Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan as well as on the design of the exercise.

J. Participant Attendance

There were 24 participants to the exercise (2 by conference call). The following charts detail the participants that attended.

Question from Stuart – do we want to include a list of participants

K. Exercise Conduct

The scenario was provided to the participants by means of PowerPoint slides after which a series of questions were asked to guide the discussion. Participants responded as to what they or their agency would be doing. It was run as a large group discussion. The scenario and questions are provided in Appendix 1

PART 2 – EVALUATION

A. Overview

As mentioned previously, the purpose of this exercise was to have participants explore and discuss how the RDCK Farmed Animal Carcass Emergency Plan could be used to provide a framework for carcass disposal operations. In this regard, participants offered their feedback about the plan as well as providing insight into additional issues that may arise during a mass carcass disposal event

Most, if not all, the expected actions within each objective of the exercise were realized during the exercise therefore the exercise met its objectives. The following are some recommendations that resulted from the discussions during the exercise.

B. Recommendations

Based on the input from participants a number of recommendations have been developed. These have been grouped into the following sections: Communications; Improvements to the RDCK FAMCDEP and Disposal Logistics;

Please note: This document does not serve to bind participating agencies to complete these actions; rather, these actions have been identified as addressing a problem, issue or request arising from participant conversations and subsequent exercise design team analysis.

Where one or more “Responsible Agencies” have been identified, it is not to bind these agencies to completing these tasks. Instead, these agencies have been deemed by the exercise design team to be the most appropriate or best prepared to complete the identified task.

Finally, the exercise design team should review and confirm the validity of these recommendations before any action is taken.

Communications

- 1. Develop a communication document (1 page pamphlet) for producers that would outline who to contact in a mass carcass disposal emergency and the support that is available to producers.**

During the exercise it was identified that many livestock producers are not aware of the assistance that would be available for dealing with a mass carcass disposal emergency. While the RDCK plan is very thorough a short overview of the assistance available and how to access it would be helpful for the producers

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This could be distributed through producer organizations (including horse, sheep, poultry, etc) . This may link into recommendation 3 of a concise reference guide for the RDCK FAMCDEP or this could be a separate document

Not clear on who would fund,/create/produce this document.

Responsible Agencies: RDCK, Producer/Industry Associations, CFIA, MAL.

2. Inform local elected officials of the importance of supporting local producer in developing solutions to mass carcass disposal solutions.

With the arrival of BSE additional disposal regulations have been implemented which are impacting local dairy/beef producers. The importance of producers, producer organizations and other agencies involved in agriculture informing the elected officials of the challenges producers face is key to having local government staff time allocated to assist with finding solutions.

Responsible Agencies: Producer/Industry Associations, related industries, other agencies involved in agriculture in region

Improvements to RDCK FAMCDEP

3. Review, revise and distribute the RDCK Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal reference guide which contains the key RDCK FAMCDEP information such as checklists, contact lists, resource lists, appropriate burial methods, etc

While the RDCK FAMCDEP provides much background information on mass carcass emergency disposal it was identified that there is a need for shorter document providing key information.

It was brought to the participant's attention that a reference summary has already been created. The reference document can be reviewed to ensure it contains:

- Checklist (key response steps)
- Resource lists
- Key contacts
- Appropriate burial methods and practices
- Acceptable methods of disinfection

The concise reference guide could then be made available to producers and agencies.

Responsible Agency: RDCK

4. Utilize information shared during exercise to update/revise current RDCK FAMCDEP.

- Most current protocols/regulations for burial/composting from MOE, MAL, CFIA
- Include farmers in resource additions to plan
- Include contacts for SRM pick up in RDCK
 - Interior Agri Solutions (Eric Wakeford)
 - 403 601 5363
 - 403 333 8190
 - Wet Coast Reductions (Kevin Wise)
 - 604 861 3283
 - 604 252 2067
- Include information on role of Recovery Team in:
 - support for stress, practices to maintain mental health, CISD for farmers/responders
 - Donation management
- RDCK has wood chip supply at landfill sites
- Min of Ag has evac plans and temporary corrals for livestock
- PAWS - has temporary accommodation and 20 acres fenced on flats - no alternate facility for livestock

Responsible Agency: RDCK, MOE, MAL CFIA

Disposal Logistics

5. Pre-determine suitable burial sites within the region.

The "RDCK - Farmed Animal Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan" provides an overview of the site selection requirements when identifying a suitable location for the burial and/or composting of carcasses. However, the plan stops short of actually identifying where these suitable locations exist to meet MOE and CFIA regulations. Pre-determining these sites has the potential to mitigate the environmental risks of having to determine these sites quickly during an actual crisis.

If the RDCK determines that this is the strategy they would like to follow there is funding available from the IAF to conduct the GIS/soil analysis studies to find suitable burial and/or composting sites.

Responsible Agency: RDCK, IAF

6. Research Emergency abattoir and disposal options in Kootenays.

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There was a discussion about the possibility of staff at local abattoirs who could assist with euthanasia (if required) and who may be able under certain circumstances to salvage some of the meat. Could partner with neighbouring RD's as this is a Kootenay wide issue.

Responsible Agencies: local governments, local Abattoir,

7. Include additional Producers in future training/exercises.

It was suggested to include additional producers in future training/exercises as well as having an on site exercise with local farmer.

Responsible Agency: RDCK, CFIA, MAL

C. Participant Feedback on Response

What is your assessment of the response efforts discussed during the exercise?

*Please rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, your overall assessment of the response efforts relative to the statements provided below, with 1 indicating **strong disagreement** with the statement and 5 indicating **strong agreement**.*

<u>Assessment Factor</u>	Rating of Agreement					Average of Responses
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>				<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
a. The roles and responsibilities during a farm animal mass carcass event are well defined	1	2	3	4	5	3.6
b. It is clear which tasks need to be completed to deal with a farm animal mass carcass event	1	2	3	4	5	3.6
c. There is a straightforward process for determining which methodology would be best for dealing with a farm animal mass carcass event.	1	2	3	4	5	2.7
d. There are sufficient resources available for dealing with a farm animal mass carcass event.	1	2	3	4	5	3.1

Comments on any of the above assessment factors:

Comments

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- Great Exercise
- Disposal options are almost non existent
- Creston Valley needs to be assessed
- The systems sometimes exist but not known as a resource

2. What areas of the response to a farm animal mass carcass disposal event need further research, resources or methodologies?

- Identified in notes
- Areas and types of disposal
- As above (disposal options almost non existent): there are plenty of rules governing what cannot be done, however few to no options are presented as to what can be done.
- Local methods and options for disposal
- Methodologies needs more research
- Criteria for disposal method
- Suitable on farm disposal sites re soil type, water table etc

3. What improvements/changes could be made to the RDCK Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Plan.

- If a facility was developed for disposal it would be nice to have an all use facility. The disaster we discussed today would have been about 10% of annual mortality in our district
- Executive synopsis
- Pamphlet form/summary
- Further research, assessment
- The plan is very good resource and quite encompassing but needs an accompanying brochure
- As captured on flip chart

4. What further exercises or training could be done to better prepare for a farm animal mass carcass disposal event

- More producer involvement
- Education, open dialogue with producers
- Re-convene this group over 3-5 years
- On site scenario with local farmer

D. Participant Feedback on Exercise Design

Following the exercise, participants were invited to provide their feedback about any item not discussed, as well as about the exercise itself. The following charts consolidate all rankings and responses.

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1. What is your assessment of the design and conduct of this discussion based exercise?

<u>Assessment Factor</u>	Rating of Agreement					Average of Responses
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>				<i>Strongly Agree</i>	
a. Having the scenario and questions ahead of time better prepared you for the discussion in the today's exercise.	1	2	3	4	5	4.3
b. This discussion based exercise was well structured and organized.	1	2	3	4	5	3.9
c. Discussion based exercises, such as this, are a valuable component in developing an integrated response.	1	2	3	4	5	4.4
d. The exercise achieved its identified objectives.	1	2	3	4	5	4
e. The exercise achieved your personal exercise objectives.	1	2	3	4	5	4.1

Comments on any of the above assessment factors:

Comments:

- Not really a "tabletop" exercise more of a briefing/discussion

2. What components of this exercise worked very well and should be retained in future exercises?

- Venue was very good. Very good representation from a variety of agencies
- Instructor familiar with information
- Facilitator did a good job

3. What suggestions would you make to improve an exercise such as this?

- Role and function of key players, especially CFA and Investment Agriculture Foundation

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APPENDICES

Appendices

- A. RDCK Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Exercise Materials