

Animal Care During Anticipated Emergency Conditions

Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) specifies general procedures used by Winthrop University to prepare and provide for animal care in the event of mandatory evacuation due to hurricane or other storm warning and other anticipated emergency situations. These procedures are to be used as guidelines to prepare for the care of animals and timely evacuation of staff in the face of emergency. These procedures are also intended to ensure the humane disposition of animals should it be required during or after an emergency.

Principle Investigator's Emergency Responsibilities

Because WU's Animal Care Program does not employ a facility director or dedicated animal care technicians, the emergency preparations and follow-up are the responsibility of each Principle Investigator (PI) who has vertebrate animals housed in the approved locations on campus. The SOP specifies procedures for fish.

Emergency Fish Care: Dalton Hall

A. Seventy-Two (72) Hours Prior to Event

1. Ensure adequate level of water in all tanks
2. Ensure an adequate supply of bleach/chemical sanitizers and any other needed emergency supplies
3. If present, secure all chemicals and ensure that MSDS sheets are posted
4. Properly dispose of all carcasses and biohazards (including sharps)
5. Contact Facilities Management to confirm anticipated availability of backup power after event
6. Provide Campus Police with list of individuals (and their contact information) who may enter the laboratory after the event

B. Forty-Eight (48) Hours Prior to Event

1. Fill large container(s)/carboy(s) with water
2. Turn freezers and refrigerators to coldest setting
3. Turn off natural gas at cutoff, if applicable
4. Provide IACUC Chair and the Compliance Coordinator copies of contact list

C. Twenty-Four (24) Hours Prior to Event

1. Fill sinks with water
2. Ensure animals have a five-day supply of food
3. Close valves on all tanks
4. If applicable, notify Facilities Management and Campus Police that temperature alarms will be temporarily suspended

D. After Event

1. Make contact with Facilities Management, Campus Police, and with others on the contact list to determine strategy for entry to the laboratory (do not enter laboratory/building alone)
2. Take flashlight

3. If rooms are damaged, relocate animals to a secure location, as determined in consultation with Facilities Management, Campus Police, and IACUC Chair
4. Assist Facilities Management as requested to restore power to aeration and filtration units as soon as possible
5. Refresh animals' food supply
6. Replace tank water lost to evaporation
7. Remove dead animals, wrap securely, and place them inside the freezer
8. Contact others on the contact list to notify them of the status of the laboratory
9. Continue to check on animals daily until conditions return to normal
10. If food supplies are compromised or animals are injured or are suffering and untreatable, euthanize using an AVMA recommended procedure