

**MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY IACUC
POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT ON DISASTER PLAN
FOR ANIMAL CARE AND USE AT MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY**

PURPOSE:

This plan is to be utilized by Monmouth University faculty and staff in the event of a disaster that effects the research and teaching animals at the University.

REVIEW:

The disaster plan will be reviewed semi-annually as part of the IACUC program and facility review and on an as needed basis. All contact lists will be updated at this time and copies will be provided to the University Police, Facilities Management, Principal Investigators and members of the IACUC as well as kept in the IACUC files.

GENERAL POLICY/PROCEDURE:

As per the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, institutions must develop a plan that takes into account the health and well-being of both personnel and animals during a disaster. Under normal situations, the Primary Investigators have the responsibility for ensuring their research and teaching animals are cared for as per their individual protocols.

Communication is of top importance during a crisis. A contact list and phone tree will be maintained and updated semi-annually. This list will be provided to the University Police and Facilities Management as well as to the Principal Investigators and members of the IACUC. In the event of a disaster or crisis, the University Police or Facilities Management should contact the IACUC chair and the IACUC Attending Veterinarian.

Safety of personnel must come first. During or after a disaster, no one is to enter a building housing animals until it is deemed safe for entry by the appropriate authority. Once it is safe to do so, the animals should be assessed and cared for to "prevent animal pain, distress, and deaths" (*Guide* page 35). The University Police or members of Facilities Management will give the IACUC Attending Veterinarian access to any and all of the rooms where animals are housed.

Preparedness. Some disasters like hurricanes and snowstorms, allow time for preparation. In these events, the Primary Investigator is responsible for having enough water, food and other supplies available for the predicted time of the event. Additional emergency supplies (water, flashlights, etc.) can be stored in E-10.

In the unlikely event that the research and teaching animals can no longer be adequately cared for at Monmouth University, they will either be transported to another safe location or humanely euthanized by the Primary Investigator, other appropriately trained Investigator, or the Attending Veterinarian. Resources will be directed to save the most valuable (as determined by the semi-annual review) animals first.

SPECIFIC DISASTERS:

Power Failure. The Edison building is equipped with a backup generator to provide power to maintain temperature, ventilation and power the fish tanks in the assorted animal facilities. Facilities Management is responsible for overseeing its operation and communicating any power loss as directed previously in this plan.

Severe Weather. The New Jersey coast can experience many types of severe weather including hurricanes, snow and ice storms, severe thunderstorms and microbursts. As previously mentioned, some storms can be predicted and prepared for prior to their arrival. In the event of severe weather, stay inside. If wind is a factor, stay away from windows and any teaching animals should be moved away from windows as long as it is safe to do so. Travel should not be attempted until the weather event is over and roads are cleared and safe for passage.

Fire. In the case of fire in the building, exit the building immediately and alert others by activating the fire alarm and calling the University Police and Fire Department.

Break-In or Vandalism. In the event of a break-in (Edison in general or an animal room) or vandalism, the University Police should be alerted immediately. The University Police will contact the IACUC Chair and IACUC Attending Veterinarian like previously noted so animals can be assessed as soon as the Police establish it is safe to enter the building.

Recommended By:

IACUC Chair

Date

IACUC Attending Veterinarian

Date