

Guernsey County Emergency Operations Plan
Emergency Support Function #11 - Agriculture
Tab C – Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan

PRIMARY AGENCY(IES): Guernsey County Sheriff's Office
Cambridge Police Department
Byesville Police Department

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Guernsey County Emergency Management Agency (GCEMA)
Cambridge-Guernsey County Health Department
Fire Departments
Fire Based EMS

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:
United Ambulance Service
Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center
The Daily Jeffersonian
AVC Communications
WHIZ Media Group
The Wilds
Dangerous Wild Animal Subject Matter Experts
Dangerous Wild Animal Owners
American Red Cross

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

1. This plan describes how Guernsey County will plan and provide resources support before, during, and after a dangerous wild animal emergency.
2. This plan addresses the issues found in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 935: Possession of Wild Animals and Snakes, fulfills the requirements for a dangerous wild animal response plan for Guernsey County and outlines the duties of the Guernsey County dangerous wild animal response team (DWART).
3. The DWART shall act as a response planning team; the DWART team is to respond to the Guernsey County Emergency Operation Center (GCEOC) as indicated below. Agencies identified in this plan may not necessarily be directly involved in an actual dangerous wild animal response. Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency representatives may be needed in the GCEOC and at sites around the county to augment and support local law enforcement response efforts.

B. General Provisions

1. In this plan “dangerous wild animal(s)” refers to both dangerous wild animals and restrict snakes; “dangerous wild animal emergency” refers to any unintentional escape or intentional release of a dangerous wild animal; and “law enforcement officer” refers to a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a township or joint police district, marshal, deputy marshal, municipal police officer, state highway patrol trooper, natural resources law enforcement officer, or park ranger.
2. Dangerous wild animals that pose a serious threat to the safety of Ohioans are those specified by ORC §935.01. Please refer to Appendix B for a complete list.

C. Scope

1. This plan applies to all participating department and departments and agencies of the jurisdictions contained within the geographic boundaries of Guernsey County.

II. Situation and Assumptions

A. Situation Overview

1. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may occur in Guernsey County
2. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may pose a threat to the public safety of the county’s citizens.
3. Designated Areas of Interest
 - a. There are a number of registered and unregistered dangerous wild animals within Guernsey County that may result in dangerous wild animal emergencies. Please refer to Appendix A – Known Dangerous Wild Animal Locations with Guernsey County, for a complete location listing of known dangerous wild animals.
 - b. Dangerous wild animals escaped or released in an adjoining county could also become a threat to residents in Guernsey County.
4. Potential Hazards

Dangerous wild animal emergencies may be caused through human acts, inaction, or negligence, by equipment malfunction, or by natural disasters (e.g., tornadoes, earthquakes, severe wind events, floods).

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Dangerous wild animal emergencies may overwhelm any one jurisdiction's response resources.
2. If a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in Guernsey County:
 - a) The city/county will receive notifications from the animal owner or the public via 9-1-1 or the ten digit emergency line.
 - b) All emergency calls are answered by the city or county 9-1-1 Dispatch Centers.
 - c) The city and county 9-1-1 Dispatch Centers maintain all emergency telephone numbers via their administrative agencies.
 - d) The receiving dispatcher will immediately notify the local law enforcement agency and upon their request the Guernsey County Sheriff and Guernsey County Emergency Management Director.
3. Additionally, the local law enforcement agency will immediately notify the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the chief law enforcement officer of the township or municipality where the dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred.

III. Concept of Operations

A. Direction and Control

1. First responders will employ incident command at the emergency site(s).
2. When a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in Guernsey County that exceeds the capability of the local incident command, local law enforcement will act as the lead agency for dangerous wild animal response.
3. If needed, the Guernsey County EMA will activate the GCEOC to support the direction and control of support personnel and to augment local law enforcement's response efforts. Please refer to the Guernsey County Emergency Operations Plan; ESF-5; Appendix 1 for Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) on GC EOC activation and operations.
4. The GC EOC will coordinate with and provide logistical support to field personnel through the following activities, as needed:
 - a. Coordinate communications with other responding organizations.

- b. Activation of 24-hour emergency communications center and send out notifications to residents and businesses by way of the county Notification System.
- c. Provide logistical support in the field for shelter, food, rest, critical incident stress debriefing, and appropriate emergency response and recovery activities.

5. Responsibilities of the Support Agencies assigned to this plan include:

- a. Providing subject matter expertise in the development and subsequent reviews of this plan.
- b. Providing personnel to assist in response and recovery operations as needed at the site(s), staging area(s), and the Guernsey County EOC, as necessary.

B. Determination of the Risk Area

The Incident Commander will identify and set forth the specific areas at risk, at the time a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs.

C. Relationship among Levels of Government

1. State

State disaster assistance, when provided, will supplement, not substitute, response provided by county and local jurisdictions.

2. County

Depending upon the way a dangerous wild animal emergency occurs in the county (via intentional release or unintentional escape), varieties or combinations of teams and/or agency members may be needed in the county EOC and at sites around the county to augment and support local law enforcement's response efforts.

IV. Assignment of Responsibilities

A. Local Law Enforcement

- 1. Coordinate dangerous wild animal emergency response in the county.
- 2. Immediately notify and/or confirm notification of any dangerous wild animal emergency occurring in the county with ODA, regardless of whether the County or State EOC has been activated, via one of the following 24-hour

telephone numbers: 855-DWA-OHIO (855-392-6446), 888-456-3405, or 614-728-6220. These telephone numbers are maintained by ODA.

3. Immediately notify and/or confirm notification with the chief law enforcement officer of the township or municipality where the dangerous wild animal emergency has occurred.
4. Immediately notify the County EMA when a dangerous wild animal emergency is likely to require activation of this plan.
5. Coordinate with ODA for the transport of confiscated and/or captured dangerous wild animals.

B. Fire Service

1. Provide a representative to the EOC, if activated.
2. Assist with the coordination of fire response, including, but not limited to, providing response personnel, the identification of resources, and matching resource requests with available resources.

C. Emergency Medical Service

1. Provide a representative to the EOC, if activated.
2. Assist with the coordination of emergency medical response, including, but not limited to, providing emergency medical technicians and first aid personnel, the identification of resources, matching resource requests with available resources, and providing information to ensure emergency medical provider safety.

D. County EMA

1. Upon local law enforcement's request, the County EMA will open the EOC and notify the appropriate support agencies listed in this plan, based on the needs of the event. Please refer the Guernsey County EOP; ESF-5; Appendix 1 for the County EOC SOP for more information on EOC activation and operations.
2. Support local law enforcement by providing countywide coordination and deployment of assets during the dangerous wild animal response, if necessary.
3. Support public information dispersal and rumor control efforts throughout the emergency.

4. Coordinate with local law enforcement for the identification of training to support agencies and provide county EOC training to agency personnel designated for operations in the affected area(s) and/or the county EOC.
5. Coordinate with ODA to identify and contact veterinary personnel and other qualified volunteers, as needed.
6. Request State resources assistance, if necessary.

E. Local Public Health Department

1. Provide a representative to the EOC, if activated.
2. Provide public health services, as identified by the incident commander, to minimize zoonotic disease outbreaks and other public health risks that may occur during a dangerous wild animal emergency.
3. Restricted snake owners are required to have access to anti-venom for each species of snake that the person owns, either at the location where each snake is confined or at a hospital. In the event that anti-venoms are needed and are not immediately available, contact the nearest Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) to locate the closest, most readily available antidote cache.
4. Coordinate with the Ohio Department of Health, as needed.

F. Broadcast and/or Print Media

Work with the Public Information Officer (PIO) to provide general advisories and related public information, coordinated with the appropriate agencies and organizations.

G. Dangerous Wild Animal Experts

1. Provide dangerous wild animal subject matter expertise in the development of this plan.
2. Act in the capacity of Subject Matter Expert to the in the EOC and at the Incident Command Post, as needed.

V. Administration

A. Agreements and Understandings

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Mutual Aid Agreements (MAA) are in place to supplement response efforts, should the event overwhelm any jurisdiction's capabilities, expertise, and/or resources. Unless otherwise provided, these MOUs and MAAs remain in effect until rescinded or modified.

VI. Plan Development and Maintenance

- A. This plan serves to supplement, not substitute, the Guernsey County EOP. Please refer to the Guernsey County EO for SOPs on EOC activation and operations.
- B. The Guernsey County DWART shall conduct subsequent annual reviews of this plan. The Guernsey County EMA will initiate the review process in accordance with the review of the Guernsey County EOP.
- C. Updates made to this plan shall be submitted to the State Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission (DWAERC) through ODA. The plan reviews on an annual basis and if no updates are recommended, the DWART shall submit a message to the DWAERC stating that fact.

VII. Authorities and References

A. Authorities

1. Ohio Revised Code

a. Chapter 935 – Possession of Dangerous Wild Animals and Snakes

- Per ORC §935.011, the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture has authority to recommend to the General Assembly species of animals and snakes to be included in the definition of “dangerous wild animal.” Animals may not be added to the ORC without approval from the General Assembly.
- Per ORC §935.16 and 22, law enforcement, or any other responsive political subdivision within the State of Ohio, may destroy any escaped or released dangerous wild animal that poses a threat to public safety. Furthermore, the officer(s) may not be held liable for damages in a civil action for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that arises from the destruction or the animal(s).
- Per ORC §935.16, the owner of the dangerous wild animal that has escaped or has been released is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the animal’s capture or destruction. The owner shall reimburse the agency(s) responsible for capturing or destroying the animal.

2. City of Cambridge Code of Ordinances

- a. Ordinance 90.13 – Report of escaped or dangerous animal
- b. Ordinance 90.15 – Exotic animals prohibited

B. References

1. State of Ohio Emergency Operations Plan

- a. Emergency Support Function-11 – Agriculture
 - Tab C – Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan

2. Muskingum County Emergency Operations Plan

- a. Muskingum County Emergency Operations Plan
 - Dangerous Wild Animal Plan

VIII. Appendices

A. Appendix A – Known Dangerous Wild Animal Locations within Guernsey County.

B. Appendix B – List of Dangerous Wild Animals and Snakes per ORC Chapter 935.

Guernsey County Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan
Appendix A

List of Known Dangerous Wild Animals Located within Guernsey County

Please make reference to the Ohio Department of Agriculture list of registered animals.

Guernsey County Dangerous Wild Animal Response Plan
Appendix B

List of Dangerous Wild Animals Subject to Plan

Dangerous Wild Animals

O.R.C. 935.01(C)

(C) “Dangerous wild animal” means any of the following, including hybrids unless otherwise specified:

- (1) Hyenas;
- (2) Gray wolves, excluding hybrids;
- (3) Lions;
- (4) Tigers;
- (5) Jaguars;
- (6) Leopards, including clouded leopards, Sunda clouded leopards, and snow leopards;
- (7) All of the following, including hybrids with domestic cats unless otherwise specified:
 - (a) Cheetahs;
 - (b) Lynxes, including Canadian lynxes, Eurasian lynxes, and Iberian lynxes;
 - (c) Cougars, also known as pumas or mountain lions;
 - (d) Caracals;
 - (e) Servals, excluding hybrids with domestic cats commonly known as savannah cats
- (8) Bears;
- (9) Elephants;
- (10) Rhinoceroses;
- (11) Hippopotamuses;
- (12) Cape buffaloes;
- (13) African wild dogs;
- (14) Komodo dragons;
- (15) Alligators;
- (16) Crocodiles;
- (17) Caimans, excluding dwarf caimans;
- (18) Gharials;

(19) Nonhuman primates other than lemurs and the nonhuman primates specified in division (C)(20) of this section.

(20) All of the following nonhuman primates;

- (a) Golden lion, black-faced lion, golden-rumped lion, cotton-top, emperor, saddlebacked, black-mantled, and Geoffroy's tamarins;
- (b) Southern and northern night monkeys;
- (c) Dusky titi and masked titi monkeys;
- (d) Muriquis;
- (e) Goeldi's monkeys;
- (f) White-faced, black-bearded, white-nose bearded, and monk sakis;
- (g) Bald and black uakaris;
- (h) Black-handed, white-bellied, brown-headed, and black spider monkeys;
- (i) Common woolly monkeys;
- (j) Red, black, and mantled howler monkeys.

"Dangerous wild animal" does not include a domesticated animal that is considered livestock as defined in section 901.70 of the Revised Code.

Restricted Snakes

O.R.C. 935.01(L)

(L) "Restricted snake" means any of the following:

- (1) All of the following constricting snakes that are twelve feet or longer:
 - (a) Green anacondas;
 - (b) Yellow anacondas;
 - (c) Reticulated pythons;
 - (d) Indian pythons;
 - (e) Burmese pythons;
 - (f) North African rock pythons;
 - (g) South African rock pythons;
 - (h) Amathystine pythons.

(2) Species of the following families:

(a) Atractaspididae;

(b) Elapidae;

(c) Viperidae.

(3) Boomslang snakes;

(4) Twig snakes.