



Livestock Disaster Preparedness Project – TORNADOES

Alberta averages 15 tornadoes per year and numerous severe thunderstorms. Tornado season extends from April to September with peak months in June and July. Tornadoes usually hit in the afternoon and early evening, but they have been known to strike at night.

Entities Impacted

- All animals in immediate area or path of tornado activity.
- Moderate to catastrophic Impact on animal health and welfare may include pain and suffering, loss of housing/containment, loss feed and water source.

Response and Recovery

- Call 911 and notify them of tornado, your location and any hazards they need to be aware of.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately. Livestock are very curious and will be drawn to downed powerlines. Herd them away from all power lines.
- Be alert at all times of loose livestock. These animals will be very frightened and may charge or attack first responders or other people in the area. Utilize low stress, safe livestock handling practice.
- Do not enter damaged buildings until first responders arrive.
- When entering damaged barns or farm structures, use extreme caution. Be on the lookout not just for building damage, but also frightened animals. All housing areas in the impact area will need to be thoroughly cleaned and cleared of debris. Fencing and facilities repaired or replaced before animals can return to farm.
- Examine animals closely. Injuries may include impalements and lacerations from flying debris. Notify veterinary response team of location of injured animals.
- Animals that are loose or unable to be contained at the impact site will need to be relocated to the designated temporary housing facility.
- Animals that require euthanasia must be euthanized as soon as it is safe to do so. **Animals cannot be transported for euthanasia; they must be euthanized where they are located.**
- Injured animals that meet standards for transport can to be moved to designated triage site.
- Long term temporary housing and feed supplies may need to be established until animals can return home.
- Feedstuff may need to be accessed for producers who lost source of feed source during the event.
- Dead stock will need to be disposed of as soon as possible to prevent disease spread, public health and environmental issues.