

DISASTER PLANNING FOR RESCUES & RURAL SHELTERS: QUICK REFERENCE CARD

You are your own first responder for the first 72 hours.



BISSELL PET FOUNDATION®
Until every pet has a home.



**ANIMAL INCIDENT
MANAGEMENT®**

A BISSELL Pet Foundation® Initiative

BEFORE THE STORM

Act as soon as you see these signs

Tropical Storm or Hurricane WATCH issued
Flash Flood Watch or Levee warning issued
Heat Advisory: 3+ days over 100°F
Your coordinator says: "This one is different"

0 - 6 HOURS: SHELTER OR EVACUATE?

Decide early — do not wait

Text ALL foster homes — confirm people and animals are safe
Check your animal list — account for every animal
Send your group text / start your phone tree
Check evacuation orders at your parish website
Pull your emergency supplies — do not wait
Stop taking in new animals right now

6 - 24 HOURS: STAY IN TOUCH

Check in every 24 hours — no exceptions

Check in with every foster — log Safe / Needs Help
Update your animal list with current locations
Post one update on social media — even one sentence
Flag any animal that needs medicine or a vet
Call partner rescues if you need extra space
Call your vet — set up a plan before things get worse

24 - 72 HOURS: HOLD STEADY

Help is coming. You can do this.

Count your supplies — how many days left?
Move animals if a foster home needs help
Walk your building — only if it is safe to enter
Call state animal response team if you still need help
Write down every action: date, time, what, who
Do NOT take in new animals until fully restocked

WHEN TO STOP AND ACT

More than 120% full	STOP taking in new animals
Under 2 weeks of food	Call backup fosters + ask for supplies
Not enough drivers	Start evacuation planning NOW
1 in 4 fosters affected	Call for outside help
Power out 24+ hrs (hot/cold)	Move animals to a cooled or heated space

WHAT MATTERS MOST

- 1. PEOPLE FIRST:** Volunteers and fosters must be safe
- 2. YOUR ANIMALS:** Foster network and your own facility
- 3. SUPPORT FOSTERS:** Help them keep your animals safe
- 4. OTHER ANIMALS:** Only if you have confirmed space

⊘ NEVER DO - NO EXCEPTIONS

Send volunteers into active floods, fires, or hazmat areas
Take in new animals when you are already full
Promise space when you do not have it
Go silent — send updates even when the news is bad

WHO TO CALL - AND WHEN

Your foster network	Right now — call or text immediately
Partner rescues nearby	Same day — mutual aid
Your local vet	Same day — set this up NOW, before a disaster
Parish/County Emerg. Mgmt.	Same day — for orders and road info only
State Animal Response Team	24-72 hours after the event
Regional Humane Society	24-72 hours
National ASAR Teams	24-72+ hours — activated by Emergency Mgmt. only
AIM / BISSELL Pet Foundation	48-72+ hours — major disasters only

HOW TO ASK FOR HELP - USE THIS SCRIPT

"We are [NAME] Rescue in [CITY, PARISH]. We have [#] dogs and [#] cats. We need [space / transport / supplies / vet help]. We have [# days] of supplies. Biggest need right now: ____."

Example: "River Bend Rescue, Pointe Coupee Parish, LA. 22 dogs, 8 cats. Need transport for 12 dogs. 48 hrs of supplies. Biggest need: driver with 15-crate trailer."

**You are not responsible for saving every animal.
Protect the ones in your care. That is enough.**