



Save All Birds

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Save All Birds (SAB) Oiled Wildlife Response Program is to have a pre-trained, organized force of volunteers, along with a core group of employees, ready and willing to respond and care for oiled wildlife in the event of a spill anywhere else needed.

This handbook has been developed to assist our organization and yours to organize volunteers in an efficient manner and assemble all the necessary documentation, information and materials for a successful cleaning operation in one location.

Through pre-training and hands-on experience, SAB has developed a volunteer network of 17 committees, each with very specific responsibilities. This organization effectively distributes the workload, simplifies the tasks that any one individual or committee is responsible for, and ensures that all tasks are covered. It focuses on an overall smooth operation of the compound, thereby facilitating the rescue, cleaning, treatment and release of as many injured birds or other wildlife as possible.

This protocol and volunteer network was put to the test when thousands of gallons of oil was spilled, injuring 371 birds. They were rescued and treated, and 85% were released back to the wild. This was an unprecedented recovery rate, and our success was due in large part to this program, its preplanning efforts, its effective organization and dedication of the volunteers.

FOUR STAGES TO A SUCCESSFUL OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE PROGRAM

FIRST STAGE - PREPARATION:

1. Enlist volunteers for each of the 17 committees outlined in this handbook.
2. Identify a Chair and Co-Chair to be responsible for each committee. This ensures that at least one will be available in an emergency. Begin implementation of the steps outlined in each committee section under "Responsibilities to prepare the committees."
3. Prepare the volunteers by providing the necessary training. Booklets developed by SAB available can be revised for use in other regions following SAB approved training. Other materials also can be available to familiarize new volunteers of all aspects of the oiled wildlife program.
4. Start accumulating equipment, supplies and other materials outlined throughout this handbook to be prepared when an emergency strikes.

SECOND STAGE - MOBILIZATION:

1. Mobilize the trained core of volunteers immediately to be on site and prepared to start operations within 12 hours.
2. Physically establish the staging area and be ready to start rescue and rehabilitation activities within one to two days:

3. Set up office trailer, supply tent, admitting and triage, critical care, holding, washing, drying, and outside pens in that order.
4. Prepare a shelter for personnel to rest, eat and conduct certain tasks; provide refrigerator/freezers; cage washing, drying, and newspaper storage areas; provide food preparation station for animals; and prepare the volunteer indoctrination area.
5. Establish satellite triage(s) as necessary.

THIRD STAGE - RESCUE & RELEASE:

1. Rescue, give immediate care, medical exam, wash, rehabilitation and supportive care as long as necessary until release is possible.
2. It is the responsibility of the state wildlife and Federal FWS that will determine if the environment is clean enough to release. Environmental agency can determine perfect locations for specific species release.

FOURTH STAGE - DEMOBILIZATION

1. Demobilize, pack and store all remaining supplies and permanent equipment for future use.
2. Prepare documentation of activities and submit rescue and rehabilitation data to appropriate agencies and a copy for your future reference.

USING THIS MANUAL

Pre-preparation is key to any successful oiled wildlife program. This cannot be stressed enough. This handbook is designed to provide a step-by-step approach to organizing each of the 17 volunteer committees. Each committee section in Tab 1 lists the responsibilities or tasks that need to be completed to prepare the committee, as well as the tasks that each individual committee is responsible for during a spill event. Some of the tasks will be obvious, while others may be details (large and small) not previously considered. Supplemental information is provided in tables, diagrams and flow charts located within the committee section or in the resources section.

The manual is designed in a binder format so that it is easy to include any additional information, particularly information pertinent to specific locales or wildlife (i.e., handling or specific medical protocols for different species). Additional research to "fill in the blanks" in some sections may be necessary; therefore it is important to familiarize yourself with all the committees and aspects of an oiled wildlife program. Consider this the starting point for your own program

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Program Director, the person in charge of the oiled wildlife response program, is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the above-mentioned permits **and training requirements are met** by the organization and its staff and volunteers. This individual will also be the point contact person for federal and state agencies, as well as the spiller. The Program Director is also responsible for the first committee, Operations Control. The Incident Report or Oil Spill Alert Form outlines the critical information needed to initiate an oiled wildlife spill response.

The most important responsibility of the Director is to fully "staff" each of the 17 committees outlined in this handbook and identify responsible individuals as committee co-chairs. The best time to organize and train thousands of well-intentioned people is before a spill occurs -- not afterward when mass confusion is typical. With key people trained to respond to specific aspects of the spill on each of these committees, the energy of helpful new volunteers can be effectively channeled.

Following are some ideas to reach out, enlist and organize volunteers of a successful oiled wildlife response program!

ORGANIZING VOLUNTEERS

Start with your organization's key volunteers and identify those who are interested in initiating an oiled wildlife response program in your area. Enlist these key people to help you get the word out and build a volunteer base. Choose a day, time and location to hold a program orientation. An ideal location may be a well known civic or community center, library, Coast Guard station or hotel meeting room, if you do not have your own space. Set aside a minimum of 5 hours; you may need even more time depending on the turnout.

Develop a media release announcing your Oiled Wildlife Response Team and Preparedness Program. Distribute widely to your local media: television stations, cable, county/city access channels, radio and print media. Also develop a flyer to be posted on community bulletin boards and the Internet. Contact local conservation organizations to ensure that it is included in their newsletters.

Identify at least two contact people and list their names and phone numbers on the announcement to accept telephone calls from potential volunteers.

Send invitations to wildlife rehabilitators, environmental organizations, wildlife rehabilitators veterinarians and veterinarian technicians within a two-hour driving distance,

Large businesses or corporations like power co. will support your efforts as it will help them if an incident should occur. Service organizations are a great resource for volunteers.

Once you have publicized your event, be prepared to answer phone calls and respond to questions. Tell interested callers that the intent of the meetings is to be prepared if an oil spill should occur. Describe the various tasks and responsibilities involved in treating and rehabilitating oiled wildlife, giving examples of some of the different committees.

Encourage callers to attend the meeting and document names, addresses and phone numbers. If the event was publicized well in advance, you may want to send out a reminder postcard to people who responded early. This will underscore the importance of each individual's participation.

Use this handbook as the guide for these initial orientation meetings. You will need to describe each committee to recruit volunteers for them. Remember, no task or committee is more important than another -- each one has responsibilities which must be covered and each committee must work well for the overall operation to be successful.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES & MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The following 17 volunteer committees have been established by SAVE All Birds Inc. with very specific duties and responsibilities so that the workload is shared, and no one person or committee is overburdened. Each committee and its responsibilities are detailed in the sections that follow. Relevant tables, reporting sheets and other pertinent information are provided at the end of each committee's section.

1. Operations Control

- a. Coordinate entire operation.
- b. Approve supply orders and communications installations.
- c. Coordinate with spiller via contract.
- d. Coordinate with state and federal agencies.
- e. Keep accurate records.

2. Volunteer Coordination

- a. Develop an efficient volunteer telephone network.
- b. Follow the phone interview flow chart to evaluate volunteers' skills and experience, and to schedule orientations.
- c. Schedule volunteers into appropriate positions: office/reception, medical/rehabilitation, general duties.
- d. Ensure volunteer release paper work signed.

3. Medical

- a. Prior to spill, identify local avian specialists who will volunteer in an emergency.
- b. Have remote triage teams and supplies ready and available, separate from main staging equipment if main staging area is 15 miles from where birds start coming in oiled. This will stabilize the bird for their trip to main staging area. .
- c. Examine incoming birds and other wildlife; conduct initial cleansing (eyes, nares, mouth) and health assessment (stabilize and determine treatment necessary).
- d. Dispose of bio-hazardous waste (medical waste) properly.
- e. Dispose of oiled waste (considered toxic) properly.
- f. Preserve dead animals for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service damage assessment.
- g. Segregate oiled birds from non-oiled birds

4. Bird Washing

- a. Develop wash teams and divide responsibilities based on experience.
- b. Clean bird of all oil to begin process of restoring bird's natural waterproofing (bird-handling experience necessary).
- c. Maintain water at proper temperature (104EF) for washing and dispose of used water appropriately.
- d. Keep accurate records (water temperature, concentration of Dawn liquid detergent, rinse information).

5. Media

- a. Designate primary and secondary media contacts; ensure that one contact person is on site as often as possible.
- b. Identify volunteers to escort media through the compound at given times (identify more than one person).
- c. Schedule press visits during specific times for photo opportunities.
- d. Allow no unauthorized interviews.
- e. Coordinate with Operations Control and Medical Committees before making any public statements.
- f. Allow only designated individuals to make official comments on behalf of your organization.

6. Communications

- a. Secure beepers, regular phones, mobile/cellular phones, and faxes.
- b. Establish contact with ham radio operators. They are a potential source of information\communications assistance.
- c. Develop and maintain a list of important phone numbers.
- d. Develop strategy for establishing necessary number of lines at a spill site.

7. Cleaning

- a. Keep cages, compound and volunteer common areas clean (ensures less confusing work atmosphere, as well as maintains sanitary conditions).
- b. Responsible for separating recyclable materials.
- c. Responsible for handling laundry.

8. Food Sources

- a. Identify possible suppliers for bird food prior to spill (check with Rehabilitation Committee for special requirements).
- b. Identify possible donors for volunteer and staff food prior to spill. Have varied types of food and drink, including water. available.

9. Construction

- a. Handle all carpentry needs: build tables, cages and pools.
- b. Work with other committees to determine size/dimension requirements for local species prior to spill.

10. Plumbing

- a. Ensure that water requirements for washing area (hot/cold water; softened water) are met.
- b. Provide water for rehab pens/pools, and human/animal consumption.

11. Electrical

- a. Work with Plumbing and Carpentry Committees to determine and handle all electrical needs (medical, office, triage, etc.) following all applicable safety regulations.

12. Rescue (Land & Sea)

- a. Experience in *rescuing* birds a must (injuries to both birds and volunteers can be caused by inappropriate techniques).
- b. Prepare rescue kits for rescue teams.
- c. Coordinate and manage all land and sea rescues.

13. Inventory Control/Informational Signs

- a. Make signs (directional, site location, etc.) prior to spill.
- b. During spill, assist Supply Requisitioning committee.
- c. Coordinate current inventories with Supply Requisitioning.
- d. Routinely check with other committees for supply needs.
- e. Maintain inventory sign-out sheet(s); all supplies must be signed for.
- f. Maintain records of donations for thank you letters.

14. Supply Requisitioning

- a. Generate list of contacts/vendors/donors to meet all supply needs.
- b. Secure all equipment for Medical, Washing, Construction and Cleaning (general cleaning supplies) committees and maintain necessary office supplies.
- c. Keep inventory count and report to Inventory Control.
- d. Have all purchases approved by Operations Control.

15. Rehabilitation

- a. Maintain birds as per instructions from Medical Committee, including critical care (caged birds), feeding, and cleaning pens/pools.
- b. Keep accurate medical records, including fluid therapy (oral and IV), medications and feeding.
- c. Mist birds in pens to promote preening for waterproofing restoration after washing.

16. Environmental & Hazmat Volunteer Training

- a. Develop and provide environmental training relative to local environmental habitats/conditions.
- b. Complete and provide full (40 hours) and short-course OSHA hazmat training for appropriate individuals.
- c. Develop and provide training for bird handlers.
- d. Develop volunteer orientation and conduct training programs as needed during spill response efforts.

17. Predator/Security Patrol

- a. Protect birds. If pens are outside, area must be predator proof -- with special attention to raccoons, rats, snakes and dogs.
- b. Have sufficient volunteers available to patrol from dusk to dawn.
- c. Protect people. This includes security for parking and getting people into facility