

RESEARCH DISASTER PLAN FOR RESEARCH LABORATORIES – University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Principal Investigators are each responsible for the Research Disaster Plan for their research laboratory. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to know at any time the critical research activities that must continue and the research personnel required to maintain these activities in the case of a disaster that limits access to campus or affects the availability of campus resources. It is also the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to determine which research activities are critical and need to be managed during a disaster and to ***not initiate any new research activities*** when access to campus is limited.

The following components must be in place as part of each research laboratory's written Research Disaster Plan. This Research Disaster Plan should be updated regularly, made available in a shared file to the individuals in Item 2 below, and be readily available if needed during a disaster.

- 1) List of contact information for all mission-critical personnel in the laboratory.
- 2) List of designated personnel who would oversee the research laboratory if the Principal Investigator was incapacitated or not otherwise able to be present or make decisions. These designated personnel must understand the expectations and limits of their roles.
- 3) List and description of critical research activities that must be performed and which mission-critical personnel would perform these activities.
- 4) Written identification of location of where critical activities would occur, including a back-up location if needed and possible.
- 5) Written identification and location of critical equipment and whether or not it is on emergency power.

For Principal Investigators with active animal protocols:

The Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) has a disaster plan to mitigate adverse animal welfare and manage routine husbandry requirements in the case of a disaster. If your research involves critical animal research activities that must occur, even when access to campus is limited due to a disaster, ***the expectation is that your research staff will continue to perform these critical animal research activities***, unless an existing agreement is in place with DCM for these activities. If DCM assistance is needed with critical animal research activities, DCM has established a process by which researchers may request assistance with research procedures support; for information on this process see <https://acup.ouhsc.edu/emergency-contacts.html>. Please be aware that DCM will provide as much support as is feasible, but may be limited by staff availability or procedural complexity.