

## Non-Declared Emergency Response

CART volunteers are an emergency response resource which works under the oversight of the local Emergency Manager (EM). CARTs may be deployed by the EM under both formally or officially declared events and non-declared events.

Non-declared events may include:

- Puppy mills (breeding operations lacking adequate animal care)
- Animal hoarding (the keeping of a large number of pets without the ability to properly care for them),
- Fighting dog seizures, and
- Accidents involving the transportation of animals
- Other events requiring response

CARTs are reminded that they are not to self deploy. To do so could negate the protections provided under Section 44-146.23 of the Code of Virginia, *Immunity from Liability*. Remaining in compliance and maintaining the protections afforded by Code requires the authorization of the local EM for any CART deployment. Note that any hands-on training or exercises may be considered non-emergency deployment and must also be coordinated with the local EM.

When, at the request of the local EM in the jurisdiction in which a CART is located, the CART responds to an incident in another jurisdiction, your CART should be included in a Mutual Aid Agreement that exists between your jurisdiction and the one requesting the assistance. Mutual Aid Agreements provide specific response criteria and terms associated with the reimbursement or replacement for expended resources. This works the same as other responses across jurisdictional boundaries; i.e. fire, police, or public works. If no such Mutual Aid Agreement exists, CARTs are strongly advised to assist the EM in developing one that addresses the items mentioned.

Finally, CARTs are reminded that appropriate communication and coordination with the local EM is required. It may be appropriate in your circumstances to schedule regular meetings with the local EM to assist in training development; to assist in the development of local policies and procedures for the implementation of the standardized practices, and; to assist in the development of any Mutual Aid Agreements.

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