

Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Response

Ready Reference Guide -- Introduction to the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS)

Purpose

This document provides a brief overview of the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS). **EMRS is the official system of record for animal health incidents for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).**

What is EMRS?

EMRS is a dynamic database used for information management in foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations, disease outbreaks, and other national animal health incidents and emergencies. EMRS provides a secure yet accessible system for data collection, management, analysis, and reporting.

Efforts to modernize EMRS into a web-based Microsoft Dynamics CRM platform began in 2011. Just like in EMRS, EMRS users are able to quickly and accurately input data and manage the tasks involved with animal health incidents. EMRS is significantly more user-friendly than the older version and also offers greater capabilities. Because it is built on a Microsoft platform, it easily interfaces with other Microsoft programs that are used frequently, such as Word and Excel. In 2017, EMRS upgraded into the Microsoft Dynamics CRM 2016 platform that incorporated a new interface and enhanced features. In 2024, EMRS upgraded into the Microsoft Dynamics PowerApps platform allowing for another advancement in user experience through streamlined and efficient capture of information, enhanced mobile capabilities, and additional reporting tools by leveraging Power BI to name a few.

Why is EMRS important?

EMRS helps APHIS Veterinary Services and State Animal Health Officials provide timely and effective responses to animal health emergencies. It streamlines the collection, management, and analysis of data from FAD investigations and other incidents. EMRS facilitates animal traceability: managing and issuing permits and movements, tracing, animal records, animal identification, and premises and activity mapping.

EMRS and EMRS2Go have been used in more than 20 outbreaks including, but not limited to: the 2002–2003 Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak in California; the 2016–2017 New World Screwworm outbreak in Florida; the 2014–2015, 2016, and 2017 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks; as well as in management of the 2018–2020 California virulent Newcastle Disease incident. EMRS is also being used for program diseases such as tuberculosis and emergencies such as the 2017 hurricanes. EMRS is currently being utilized to manage two ongoing responses, the 2022 and 2024 Poultry and Livestock Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks.

EMRS has proven vital to animal emergency response and reporting activities nationwide as it is used by Federal and State responders alike to manage all aspects of a response. The EMRS Permitting Gateway provides a service allowing for industry partners and State Animal Health Officials to efficiently manage intra and interstate permits associated with animal and animal commodities originating from or entering established control areas. EMRS continues to evolve based on the needs and requirements of emergency responders, disease managers (who can also use it for traceability), and animal health data analysts.

How is EMRS accessed?

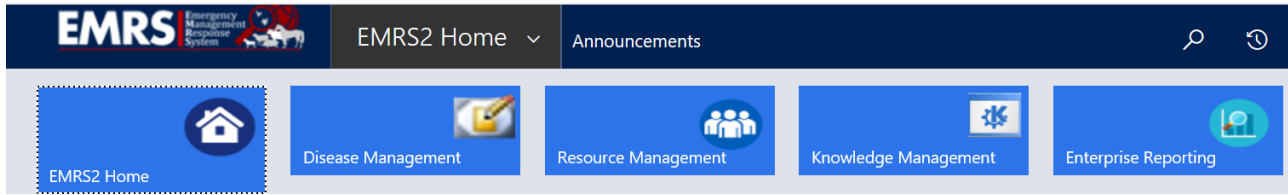
EMRS is only accessed by users who have received their USDA eAuthentication access; see www.eauth.usda.gov for more information. Once granted, EMRS can be accessed through your web browser (https://mrp-aphis-vs-emrs.crm9.dynamics.com/Apps/uniquename/crb58_EMRS), and requires a LincPass for APHIS employees and contractors or an eAuthentication password for other users.

How else can EMRS be utilized?

- ◆ *EMRS Customer Permit Gateway* is an interactive, secure web-application, where registered producers can create a permit request for movement. For further information, see *FAD PReP Manual 6-0 Permitted Movement*.
- ◆ *EMRSGO* is an IT platform, more commonly known as an “app,” that allows authorized users the ability see certain EMRS information from a mobile device, collect new data off-line within the app, and then upload the new information into EMRS when reconnected online. This app is fully operational and has been used in the California virulent Newcastle Disease incident as well as in all States for FAD investigations.

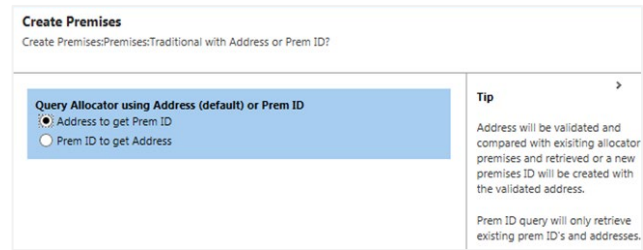
What does EMRS do?

EMRS is divided into five general functions:



What can users do in EMRS?


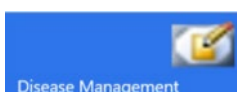


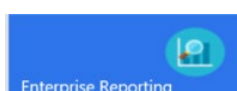
Users are assigned various roles. A user’s role determines what records they are able to see and/or edit, which also may be geographically limited if they are State or field-based users. Users that have permission can enter data through streamlined data entry processes that make data entry quick and efficient. EMRS affords managers the capability to assign and manage work. EMRS is also used to generate situation reports, permits, and custom maps to name a few.



Federal and State veterinary medical officers, animal health technicians, and various disease specialists and epidemiologists (State and Federal), based on their role, will be able to:

- ◆ collect, enter, and view animal disease data,
- ◆ manage activities like FAD investigations,
- ◆ manage and track resources (personnel & equipment),
- ◆ monitor progress of response operations,
- ◆ create reports, and
- ◆ create maps.

What is the functionality within EMRS?

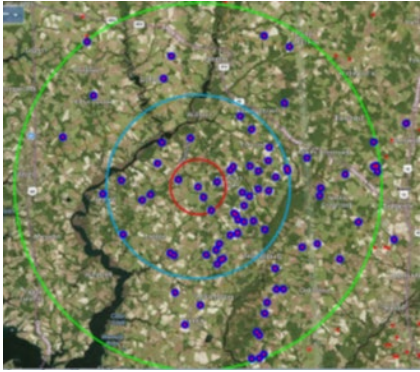
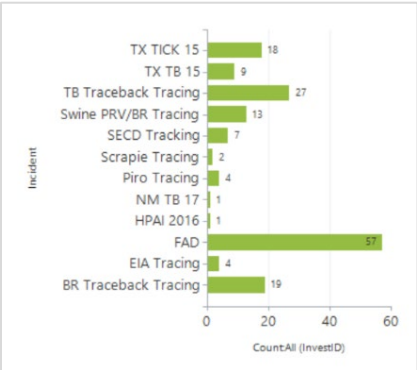
	<p>EMRS Home provides the starting place for EMRS users. It references general announcements and training materials. Additionally, inspection tasks—used often by field employees—are managed here to help aid in organization and completeness.</p>
	<p>Disease Management manages information related to incidents and investigations (e.g., premises statuses during an outbreak), providing actionable information, which allows rapid decisions to be made in order to protect U.S. agriculture, animal health, public health, the environment, and the economy.</p>
	<p>Resource Management manages personnel and equipment deployed during an incident. During incidents, many activities are ongoing simultaneously and need to be tracked and positioned strategically for increased efficiency and coordination.</p>
	<p>Knowledge Management manages documentation and makes it accessible to all users. It provides overarching information on incident response conducted within the National Response Framework as well as incident specific documentation from the field. EMRS training and job-aids are also available.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Reporting provides tools needed to assist in creating the critical common situational picture amongst officials and responders. EMRS provides extensive capabilities for advanced queries and user-generated reports. It can also spatially map premises and disease information, and offer targeted reporting for local, State, regional, or national audiences.</p>

What capabilities does EMRS have for visualization?

EMRS can generate graphs, charts, and other visualizations to report the current state of events and to project anticipated requirements for incident management and resource management. This allows decision makers, as well as Incident Management Teams to respond appropriately. Below are some examples of these capabilities.

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Note: Sample data provided.