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Emergency Management Agency  
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**TO:** County Emergency Management Agencies

**FROM:** David Daniels, Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture / State Dangerous Wild Animal  
Emergency Response Commission, Chair  
Nancy Dragani, Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency / State  
Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission, Vice-Chair

**DATE:** March 22, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Formation of County Dangerous Wild Animal Response Teams

### BACKGROUND

In response to the October 2011 tragedy in Muskingum County involving the release of dangerous wild animals, Governor Kasich issued an Executive Order instructing the State of Ohio to review and make recommendations to legislature on the regulation of dangerous wild animal (DWA) ownership. These recommendations were made State law, effective September 5, 2012, under Ohio Revised Code (ORC), Chapter 935.

ORC 935.27 specifically outlines the formation of the State DWA Emergency Response Commission to address response to an intentional release or unintentional escape of dangerous wild animals. This commission is responsible for approving of and appointing members to DWA Response Teams (DWA RT) for each county. Per ORC 935.28, each county's DWA RT, in turn, is responsible for developing and submitting a DWA response plan to the State DWA Emergency Response Commission.

### ACTION

The State DWA Emergency Response Commission is asking each county EMA to assist by spearheading the organization of local DWA RTs. Attached are both an Initial DWA RT Nomination Form (for teams) and an Application for Membership to a DWA RT (for individual team members). The Commission asks that team nomination forms be completed and mailed, emailed, or faxed to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, DWA Office, **no later than July 1, 2013**. The DWA Office's contact information is listed below:

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Dangerous Wild Animal Office  
8995 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
Fax: (614) 728-6310  
Email: [animal@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:animal@agri.ohio.gov)

Specific guidance on the completion of initial DWA RT formation documents is attached. More information may also be found on the Ohio Department of Agriculture, DWA's website. Questions may be directed to: Candice Miller, Ohio Department of Agriculture, at (614) 728-6285 or [candice.miller@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:candice.miller@agri.ohio.gov); or to Melinda Craig, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, at (614) 799-3826 or [mscraig@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:mscraig@dps.state.oh.us).

#### **Mission Statement**

*"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."*