

Independence DART (Disaster Animal Response Team)
Code of Conduct

Individuals volunteering for, activated by, or representing DART shall adhere to the following policies. All DART members will sign this document to indicate that they understand and agree to abide by the codes identified within this document. Incident Commanders will have authority to deactivate any activated DART representative for behavior(s) that is contrary to the code of conduct based on their discretion.

1. Individuals shall project a professional manner and appearance while participating in any DART – related activities. The following will not be tolerated while on site at a disaster, conference, or other DART activity:
 - a. Consumption of alcoholic beverages while on duty or any display of public drunkenness.
 - b. Possession, use or selling of any illegal drugs
 - c. Violation of any laws
 - d. Public outbursts, public derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals
 - e. Illegal use or display of a firearm.
2. Individuals shall identify operations that are beyond their capabilities based on their experience, training and knowledge, and will provide and carry professional credentials during activation. Individuals shall observe all safety rules and regulations and be familiar with proper usage and operation of all equipment.
3. Individuals shall be expected to accept assignments and/or orders as directed by the appropriate supervising authority (ICS Incident Commander or other subsequent supervisor), or if required, make discretionary decisions based on appropriate intent and good judgment.
4. Individuals while representing DART will not participate otherwise in operations that serve to promote personal gains, ideologies, or individual organizations.
5. Individuals shall not enter private properties to perform DART duties without permission from the owner, supervising authority, or without law enforcement escort.
6. Individuals shall remain in contact with the appropriate ICS authority, and confine their activities to the stated mission and directives of the Incident Action Plan.
7. All individuals shall wear current identification as required by the Incident Commander, and DART badge, while on site at a disaster.
8. Individuals will be required to document or participate in documentation for each emergency activity or action in a timely manner, and submit documentation to the assigned/designated personnel through the appropriate ICS channels.

9. Individuals shall not transport animals to facilities other than the ones that have been assigned by the supervising authority without permission from the supervising authority.
10. Individuals shall refrain from taking photographs out of respect of the privacy of the owner. Any photos that are made for educational purposes will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner.
11. In situations in which an animal (s) is rescued and transported from a property without prior permission, individuals participating in such rescue must leave notification of the removal of the animal or disturbance of the property on the property in the most visible area possible. The Incident Commander will dictate the form of notification.
12. Individuals shall not accept personal gratuities. All personal donations shall be directed to the DART Commander.
13. Volunteers serving as part of an official DART activation will direct all questions and requests for interviews to the Public Information Officer indicated in the ICS organizational structure.

Signature

Date

Witness

Date