

FOOD PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

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The daily preparation and delivery of animal diets is the role of many commissary-type operations in zoos. When a natural disaster strikes it is of utmost importance not to compromise the dietary needs of a captive animal collection. In 2004, the state of Florida had four hurricanes strike within a six-week period. To prepare for the possibility of not being able to access animal barns for up to three days, the Animal Nutrition Center at Disney's Animal Kingdom developed a hurricane preparation protocol to supply animal areas with the maintenance portion of the animals' diets. The maintenance diet was defined as, "the complete portion of the diet which will provide the daily requirement of energy, protein, vitamins and mineral". In most cases, maintenance items were commercially prepared grain and/or meat portion of the diet. This hurricane protocol successfully ensured that all of the animals received adequate nutrition that was required during the emergency situation.