

The Big Fix Blueprint: One-Day High-Volume Spay & Neuter Clinic for Rural Cats

Objective:

To humanely reduce the feral cat population by providing a one-day, high-efficiency spay and neuter service for trapped cats, through a partnership between local community members, veterinary professionals, and volunteers.

Phase 1: Planning & Logistics (3+ months in advance)

To-Do List:

- **Assemble a Core Planning Team:** Include passionate community members, any rescue groups in the community, Veterinarians, and community pillars such as city/county board members, Public Health Officials, Animal Control Officers, etc.
- **Confirm all Laws will be followed during this event (i.e. no feeding cats, no releasing cats, cat leash and license laws, etc), or discuss changing those laws prior to moving forward.**
- **Secure a Venue:** Large enough for check-in, surgery prep, surgery stations, and recovery. Consider local fairgrounds, school gyms, or community centers. Should be weather appropriate for the time of year planned. Temperatures should be maintained between 65 and 80 degrees during the duration of the event. Ideally should be an enclosed building to minimize exposure to flies, other insects, etc. Should have adequate
- **Choose a Date:** Avoid major events and holidays. Choose temperate weather months if possible. BHS recommends the end of Feb- first of June to have the largest impact on that year's cats. Other dates and times can be considered, but adequate air-conditioning and heating must be a priority.
- **Create a Plan for Kittens:** If choosing a summer/fall date, a plan for trapped kittens must be established ahead of time. We recommend placing all kittens under 3# in socialization foster homes with the intent of adoption into indoor homes, however resources such as quantity of foster homes may limit this possibility. If no foster/adoption options are readily available, all apparently healthy kittens over 1.8# can be safely TVNR'd, but a plan for any that are smaller or have mild illness that prevent immediate surgery. If this is discussed at this part of the planning process, fosters will likely be identified through the following planning process. Socializable kittens can account for 1/3-1/2 of the population in some colonies, if you are trapping 100 TVNR's, plan for 30-50 kittens needing foster/placement 2-4 per home ~33 fosters lined up with supplies.
- **Recruit a Trapping Team:** While this seems like an easy task, coordination for a large event like this typically exceeds setting out a normal live release trap and waiting for a cat to go in. The use of drop traps, transfer kennels and knowledge of cat behavior are necessary. We recommend at a minimum contacting a group that has TNR specific group that has coordinated a large mass trapping event and has the knowledge to teach community trapping classes. We recommend

The Cat House, Brave Animal Rescue TNR, The Working Cat Project, and Stray to Spay in Nebraska. If particularly interested in doing this yourself or within your community we HIGHLY recommend the Community Cats Program Management Course for anyone who is considering leading this charge! ([UNSM 200 Community Cats Program Management | University of the Pacific](#))

- **Recruit a Veterinary Team:** Contact organizations Beatrice Humane Society who can help coordinate with partners such as Nebraska Humane Society, Capital Humane Society, Kansas State Veterinary Shelter Medicine Program, etc. Independent private practice veterinarians are certainly welcome to participate, but may not have the organization or surgical speed/stamina for a large volume event like this. They may be more comfortable in a non-surgical capacity, but this will only be determined through conversation. Most HQHVSN Veterinarians are able to complete 3+ cats spay procedures per hour which will be necessary depending on the quantity of surgeries planned in 1 day.
- **Apply for Permits/Insurance:** Check local ordinances and insurance needs for liability coverage. Beatrice Humane Society can assist with providing additional insurance to events and specific named locations if requested.
- **Create a Budget:** Include surgical supplies, medications, food, lodging for trapping and surgical teams, marketing, and incidentals. See attached preliminary planning budget which may significantly change depending on your location, resources donated by the community and specific goals for this event.
- **Seek Funding & Donations:** Reach out to local businesses, civic groups like Kiwanis, Elks, Rotary, Lions Clubs, Optimist, American Legion, etc, or apply for grants (e.g. Community Gives funds, community improvement grants, city funds-including keno funds!, etc). Get more people and businesses involved. This is actually one of the best ways to provide education on TVNR, the benefits, and building community support for this program. Don't shy away from people that "don't like cats and don't want them around". Common ground can be found as long term population decline through TNR is the ONLY effective and humane cat population control method. Additionally, most community complaints (spraying, marking, fighting and kittens) are all solved by TVNR. They may not initially recognize it, but through education, your solution is also a solution for them too!
- **Identify High Need Areas:** Identify areas with high outdoor populations of cats, often trailer and mobile home parks, college campuses, restaurants, abandoned buildings, etc. Addresses of colonies and estimates of the number of cats in those colonies are important in the early planning stages. Cats need three major resources to stay in an area: Food, Shelter, and Sex. Identifying any of those three resources should be documented as there are likely more cats in that area. Feeding stations and shelter locations are particularly useful for the trappers.
- **Begin Community Education:** Identify areas with high outdoor populations of cats, often trailer and mobile home parks, college campuses, restaurants, abandoned buildings, etc.

- Increase community understanding of feral cat overpopulation, Promote TVNR as the only humane and cost-effective solution. Build a network of local advocates, volunteers, and donors.
- **Key Messages:** “TVNR stabilizes cat populations.” “Spaying/neutering improves cat health and reduces nuisance behaviors.” “TVNR can prevent thousands of unwanted kittens and decrease unnecessary cat deaths.”
- **Create Educational Materials:** Flyers, posters, and infographics on the life cycle of feral cats, community cat care, and the impact of unchecked reproduction. Short, shareable videos or slide shows for social media and community meetings. BHS has many of these to share.
- **Engage Local Media:** Pitch stories to local radio stations, newspapers, and cable access. Offer interviews with clinic organizers, vets, or volunteers with powerful stories.
- **Partner with Schools and Libraries:** Distribute age-appropriate materials. Host a “Compassion for Cats” info table or coloring contest to engage youth.
- **Host a Community Town Hall:** Invite local residents, business owners, and farmers to hear about the TVNR program, ask questions, and share concerns.
- **Door-to-Door Campaigns:** Volunteers distribute educational door hangers in areas with known cat colonies. Encourage reporting of colony locations and offer resources for participation.
- **Faith & Civic Group Outreach:** Speak briefly at local group meetings or services. Share how helping cats supports public health, environmental balance, and compassion.

Phase 2: Operational Setup (1 month in advance)

To-Do List:

- **Order Medical Supplies:** See supply list attached
- **Set Up a Trapping Schedule:** Coordinate with TNR volunteers to trap cats 1–2 days prior to the event; assign zones, put trappers in direct contact with feeders/ colony caretakers to ensure good relationships and compliance which will result on more cats being trapped.
- **Organize Transportation & Animal Housing Leading Up to The Event:** A commercial van or similar with appropriate climate control is necessary. We do not condone moving animals in open pickup truck beds.
- **Recruit and Train Volunteers:** Assign roles—check-in, transport, medical support, post-op monitoring, clean-up, see attached volunteer plan.
- **Print and Prepare Forms:** Consent forms, trap ID stickers, community information forms, see attached.
- **Design Clinic Flow:** Layout of intake, surgery, recovery, and discharge zones, see attached mockup.

Phase 3: Clinic Day Execution

To-Do List:

- **Early Setup:** Prep all stations, run through safety checks, and brief all volunteers.
- **Check-In & Intake:** ID tags, health check, weight.
- **Surgery Rotation:** Vets perform operations in a streamlined assembly-line model.
- **Recovery Monitoring:** Volunteers ensure cats wake up safely and without complications.
- **Discharge & Return:** Return cats to their owners/ territories or arrange post-op fostering if needed.

Phase 4: Follow-Up & Community Engagement

To-Do List:

- **Post-Event Vet Follow-Up:** Ensure a channel for reporting complications.
- **Thank Volunteers & Donors:** Personalized thank-you messages, social media shoutouts.
- **Share Impact Metrics:** Total cats fixed, costs, before/after photos, community benefits.
- **Plan the Next Clinic:** Use lessons learned to improve efficiency.

Proposed Budget: One-Day Spay/Neuter Clinic (100 Cats)

Category	Details	Estimated Cost
Surgical Supplies	\$57.85 x 100 cats- see additional list for donation purposes	\$5785
BHS Veterinary Team Stipend	BHS vet team travel, equipment, prep, cleanup and community consult services. This includes our veterinarian, 2 licensed technicians, and one veterinary assistant for the day of, controlled drug access and logs, electronics including tablets and wifi internet, scheduling software and medical record collection and management. It includes sterilized and appropriate spay and neuter packs for 60 cats, transfer and use of our autoclave if that is needed for additional surgical pack capacity, 2 gas anesthesia machines, 2 oxygen concentrators, 2 portable 4' tables suitable for surgical tables, stainless steel tables if needed, patient positioners, towels, drapes, etc. This also includes the use of 50 traps and transfer kennels, 1 drop trap, 20 stainless steel kennels and all cleaning, training, transport and maintenance associated with that equipment.	\$5,000
Veterinary Team Hotel- depends on distance	1-5 rooms x 1-2 nights x \$100/night May find better AirBNB/VRBO pricing	\$300-\$1000
Volunteer Trapper Hotel Accommodations	3 rooms x 3 nights x \$100/night May find better AirBNB/VRBO pricing	\$900
Gas Reimbursement	For vets, transport, and trapping teams	\$300
Tent Rental	Large event-style tent + setup fee	\$500
Meals for Volunteers	2 meals x 25 volunteers x \$12/meal	\$600
Marketing & Education	Flyers, signage, handouts	\$450
Misc. Supplies	Traps, cleaning materials, duct tape, etc.	\$500
Liability Insurance	Temporary event coverage	\$250

▼ **Total Estimated Cost \$ 15,300**

This budget keeps things lean while still covering essentials. If you decide to serve more cats or spread across multiple days, I can adjust the numbers accordingly.

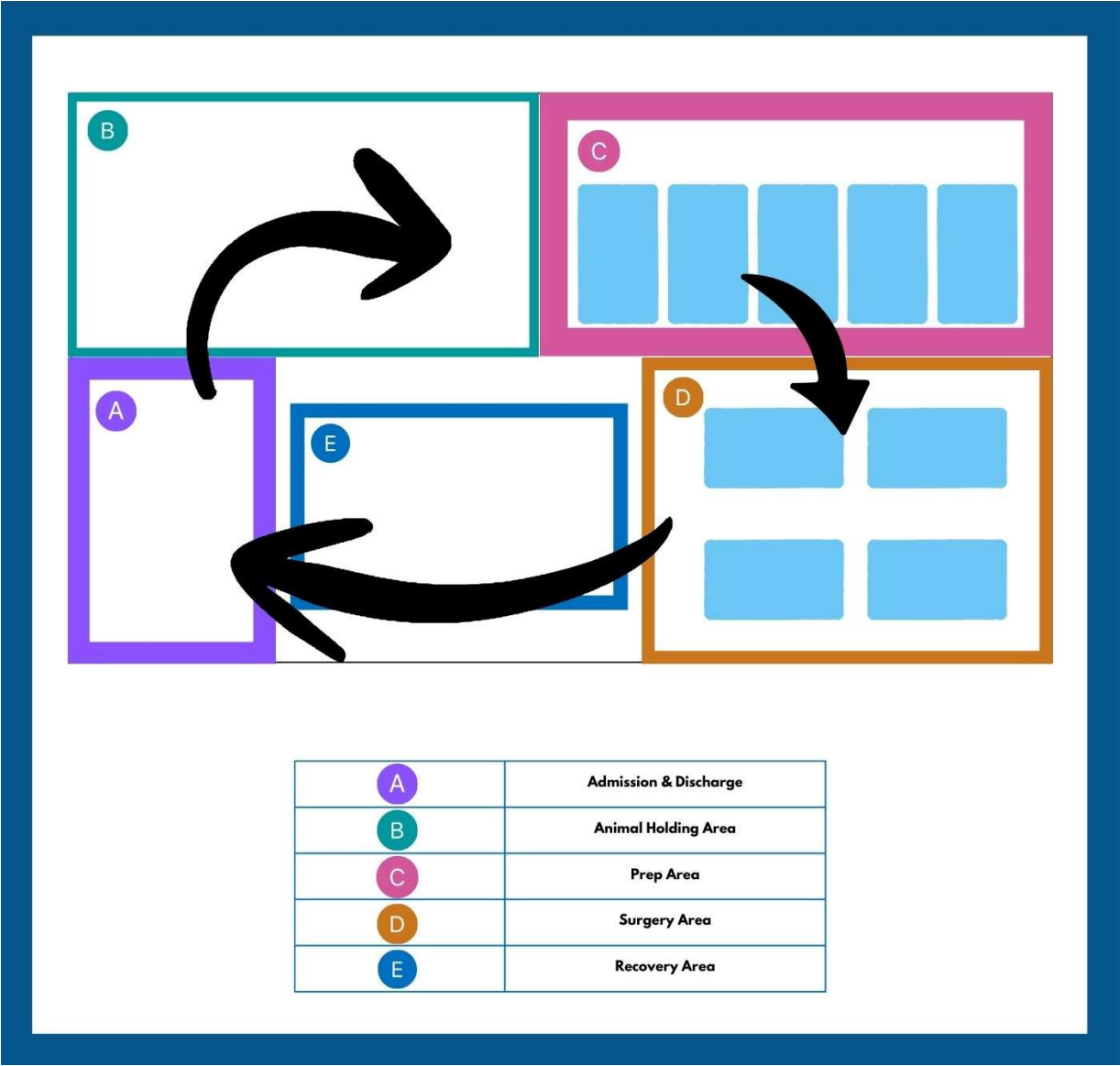
Supply List for Surgeries- can be used for fundraising or specific donations from medical suppliers. Ketamine, Butorphanol, Buprenorphine, and Simbadol MUST be purchased through a veterinarian that will be onsite that day as they are controlled drugs and must be administered by the medical professional purchasing them according to Federal Law. BHS's software has the ability to track and log these drugs as they are drawn up and administered with printable logs at the end of the day for the veterinarian needing this documentation.

Item	Details and quantity	BHS Cost	Total Cost if BHS Purchases
Dexmedetomidine inj	0.5mg/ml Injectable 10ml bottle ~0.3ml/cat, 100 cats= 3 bottles	\$150/vial	\$450
Ketamine (controlled) inj	100 mg/ml Injectable 10ml bottle ~0.3ml/cat, 100 cats= 3 bottles	\$10/vial	\$30
Butorphanol tartrate inj	10 mg/ml Injectable 50ml bottle ~0.3ml/cat, 100 cats= 1 bottle	\$200/vial	\$200
Buprenorphine HCl Inj	0.3 mg/ml Injectable 1ml vial ~0.45ml/cat, 10 cats= 5 vials	\$16/vial	\$80
Simbadol Buprenorphine Inj	1.8 mg/ml Injectable 10ml bottle ~0.6ml/cat, 10 cats= 1 bottle	\$320/vial	\$320
Convenia Inj Antibiotic	80 mg/ml Injectable 10ml bottle ~0.5ml/cat, 20 cats= 1 bottle	\$460/bottle	\$460
Atipamezole	5 mg/ml Injectable 10ml bottle ~0.3ml/cat, 10 cats= 1 bottle	\$120/vial	\$120
Lidocaine	20 mg/ml Injectable 100ml bottle ~0.2ml/cat, 10 cats= 1 bottle	\$5/ bottle	\$5
Meloxicam Inj	5 mg/ml Injectable 10ml bottle ~0.25ml/cat, 100 cats= 3 bottle	\$60/bottle	\$180
Suture, 2-0 Monofilament (PDS/Monocryl) gravid OHE	Prepare for ~20 cats, boxes of 12 \$6/cat, 3 boxes	\$72/12ct	\$216
Suture, 3-0 Monofilament (PDS/Monocryl) normal OHE	Prepare for ~60 cats, boxes of 12 \$5.50/cat, 5 boxes	\$66/12ct	\$330
Surgical Gloves	50 pairs per box \$42-\$60 depending on surgeon preference, 2 boxes	\$42/50ct	\$84
Exam Gloves	50 pairs per box \$7-\$12 depending on surgeon preference, 10 boxes, various sizes	\$7/50ct	\$70
Surgical gauze	10/cat in surgery pack, 10/cat scrub, 200/ pack- 10 packs	\$8/pack	\$80
Chlorhex scrub	2% or 4%- 1 gal	\$30	\$30
Isopropyl Alcohol	1 gal	\$25	\$25
Puppy Pads	2 per cat (1 during sx, 1 for kennel post op) 100/case	\$30	\$30
FVRCP Vaccines	100 needed- 25 doses/ tray- 8 trays	\$200	\$1600
Rabies Vaccine	100 needed- 50 doses/ box- 4 trays	\$210	\$840
Microchips	100 needed- 25 chips/bag- 4 bags	\$158.75	\$635

Equipment List

Animal Handling Area	Prep area	Surgery	Recovery	Admission/ Discharge
Surface Pro Tablet	Surface Pro Tablet + Printer	Surface Pro tablet/3 surgeons	Surface pro tablet + Printer	Laptop
Zip ties	1 prep table for every surgery table + 1 extra, this step tends to be the rate limiting step unless you can identify boys pre-sx. Depending on previous exp. Might add extra tables here	4 ft folding table or stainless steel prep table for each surgeon	Microchip scanner to confirm the right animal → right kennel/trap	Kennel/ Trap Labels
Newspaper/disposable pee pads	Clippers: 1.5/table to allow for charging https://a.co/d/fy5i7G9	Patient thoracic positioner, 1/ table, can use rolled towels if needed	Towels/sheets for under cat and over kennel	Pens, Sharpies
Canned food in plastic bowls	Alcohol/chlorhex gauze containers: 2/table https://a.co/d/489Ym62	Surgery packs	Revolution/flea prevention	Clipboards
Water Bowls	Sharps container: 1/table https://a.co/d/a0Yu1bJ	Surgical Gloves	Pee pads	Printer Paper
Rescue or similar cleaner	Microchip Scanner: 1/table https://a.co/d/1MoiJ3N	Surgical gowns if preferred	Thermometer	Printer + Cable
Paper towels	70% Isopropyl Alcohol (1 gallon+)	Surgical masks if preferred	Scissors	Cash drawer
Sharpies	Chlorhex Scrub (1 gallon+)	Surgical caps if preferred	Zip ties	Donation Box
Cat Scale https://a.co/d/0tohh8A	Cordless dustbusters: 1/ table https://a.co/d/eFtI7up	Suture, surgical blades, tattoo ink, glue		
Hanging Scale https://a.co/d/fx6Atus	1 folding table (4ft+), 1 per surgeon	Avagard hand sanitizer		
Trash Cans	Towels for patient transfer	Emergency instruments		
Towels/sheets for under cat and over kennel	Mini fridge or cooler for vaccines https://a.co/d/eKoGkRH FVRCP Vaccines, 1 per cat- fridge Rabies Vaccines, 1 per cat- fridge Microchips, 1 per cat Meds: DKB, Meloxicam, Lidocaine, Buprenorphine, Simbadol, Convenia (refrigerate) 1 fully functional anesthesia Machine with Isoflurane, oxygen and cat mask for each station Gallon zip lock baggies for cats paper, meds, vaccines, microchip Paper Cat collars/ scotch tape Sharpies Pee Pad/ Trash Cans for female urine voiding	Emergency Drugs		

Potential Clinic Layout + Flow



Volunteer List for Big Fix Surgery Day

All training will be provided. Volunteers should be comfortable working in a fast-paced environment and, for animal-handling roles, with cats and basic medical procedures.

Medically Experienced Volunteers

These roles require veterinary credentials or prior medical experience. All volunteers will receive orientation on event-specific protocols.

Role	Volunteers Needed	Responsibilities
Veterinarians	4-6	Perform spay/neuter surgeries, oversee medical safety, and guide prep and recovery teams.
Prep Teams (Two-Person Units)	5 teams (10 volunteers total)	Clip, clean, scrub, microchip, and vaccinate cats before surgery. Maintain sterile technique and accurate documentation.
Instrument Cleaners	3	Clean, sterilize, and organize surgical instruments between procedures. Ideal for human nurses or medically trained volunteers. May run autoclave if needed.
Sedation Specialists	3-4	Safely sedate cats using IM injections administered through traps or kennels. Must be comfortable handling injectable medications and monitoring sedation response.

Animal Care Shifts

Role	Volunteers Needed	Responsibilities
Cat Movers (Prep & Surgery Flow)	4-5	Transport cats and traps between holding, prep, surgery, and recovery stations. Ensure paperwork and medications follow each cat through the process.
Recovery Team	2-3	Remove paper collars, apply topical treatments, return cats to traps/kennels, match paperwork, and contact caretakers for pickup.
Volunteer Driver (Afternoon)	1-2	Return cats to caretakers using enclosed traps/kennels. Vehicles such as SUVs, vans, or pickups are ideal. Protective liners provided.

Non-Animal Support Shifts

No animal handling required.

Role	Volunteers Needed	Responsibilities
Setup Team	3–4	Prepare tables, organize supplies, draw up vaccines, and stage cats for intake.
Breakfast Provider	1–2	Provide breakfast for volunteers (e.g., pastries, fruit trays, coffee, or breakfast burritos).
Snack Provider (Morning)	1–2	Offer light snacks such as fruit, veggies, chips, and dips.
Lunch Provider	1–2	Provide lunch for volunteers (bagged lunches or hot meals).
Snack Provider (Afternoon)	1–2	Offer afternoon refreshments to keep volunteers energized.
Cleanup & Breakdown Team	3–4	Load supplies, sort traps and kennels, sweep, mop, and restore the venue to original condition.

Notes for Volunteer Coordinators

- Add/Adjust shift times based on event schedule.
- Ensure all volunteers receive orientation and safety training before their shift.
- Provide clear signage for each station (Holding, Prep, Surgery, Recovery, Pickup).
- Maintain hydration and rest areas for volunteers throughout the day.
- Encourage community participation through meal sponsorships and supply donations.

Emergency Preparedness and Safety Protocols

Every Big Fix event must prioritize the safety of staff, volunteers, animals, and community members. Large-scale operations in rural or outdoor settings require proactive planning for severe weather and emergency scenarios. This protocol ensures rapid response, clear communication, and safe evacuation when needed.

Core Safety Principles

- **People First:** Protect human life above all else. Animals and equipment can be secured later.
- **Clear Leadership:** Designate one Safety Lead and one Backup Lead to make real-time decisions.
- **Communication:** Maintain a group text thread or radio channel for all team leads.
- **Shelter Awareness:** Identify and mark safe shelter areas in the event planning stages (solid buildings, storm shelters, or vehicles).
- **Evacuation Readiness:** Keep transport routes clear and vehicles fueled.
- **Cancel if Unsafe:** Cancelling or postponing the event is always acceptable if conditions threaten safety.

Severe Weather Response Plans

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Shelter & Safety	Post-Event
Severe Storm / Lightning	Halt all outdoor activity. Move volunteers and animals indoors. Unplug electrical equipment.	Use enclosed buildings or vehicles. Avoid metal structures and open areas.	Resume only after 30 minutes of clear weather. Inspect electrical and medical equipment before restarting.
Tornado	Sound alarm and direct everyone to designated shelter. Stop all procedures immediately.	Move to interior rooms or storm shelters. Cover animals in traps with blankets to reduce stress.	Wait for official all-clear. Assess damage and confirm safety before resuming.
Hurricane / High Winds	Cancel or postpone event if forecasted. Secure trailers and tents.	Shelter indoors.	Conduct site inspection before rescheduling.
Flooding / Flash Flood Risk	Monitor local alerts and water levels. Relocate animals and supplies to higher ground.	Avoid basements or low-lying areas. Keep electrical cords and equipment elevated.	Inspect for water damage and contamination before resuming operations. Cancel or relocate event if flooding risk persists.

Scenario	Immediate Actions	Shelter & Safety	Post-Event
Blizzard / Extreme Cold	Cancel or reschedule. Protect animals and volunteers from exposure.	Use heated indoor spaces only.	Verify safe road conditions before reopening.
Wildfire / Smoke Hazard	Evacuate immediately if rec by officials, if fire is within 10 miles or air quality deteriorates.	Move animals and people to pre-identified safe zones.	Coordinate with local emergency services before returning.

Preparedness Checklist

- Emergency contact list (local law enforcement, fire, EMS, shelter management).
- Weather monitoring app or NOAA radio.
- First aid kits and emergency lighting.
- Backup power and water supply.
- Printed evacuation map and shelter locations.
- Volunteer briefing at start of day on emergency signals and procedures.

Communication Template

Safety Lead Message Example: “All teams pause operations immediately. Severe weather approaching. Move to designated shelter areas and await further instructions. Safety is our top priority.”

Infrastructure Contingency Plans

Scenario	Pre-Planning	Immediate Response	Recovery
Power Outage	Secure access to portable generators and fuel before event day. Test all units. Identify critical circuits (lighting, anesthesia, refrigeration).	Activate generators immediately. Prioritize surgical lighting, recovery area ventilation, and refrigeration for vaccines.	Resume normal operations once power is restored. Recheck all equipment for safety.
Internet Outage	Arrange Starlink or mobile hotspot backup for registration and data entry. Print essential forms and medication dose charts in advance.	Switch to paper-based intake and medical tracking. Use printed dose charts for vaccines and medications.	Digitize all paper records once connectivity returns. Verify data accuracy before submission.

