Crisis Ethics Field Guide

QUICK START: TRIAGE PROTOCOL

IF IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE:

1. Prioritize survival across all beings (human and non-human)

2. Document decisions using Rapid Documentation Card (p.24)

3. Engage crisis guardians if available

IF SEVERE SUFFERING RISK:

1. Apply Harm Minimization Protocol (p.8)

2. Implement temporary protective measures

3. Document using Rapid Assessment Form

IF TIME PERMITS: Follow complete assessment pathway for your crisis type (see index on back cover)

CORE PRINCIPLES FOR CRISIS ETHICS

1. **Preserve Life First**

   - Prioritize immediate survival needs across all categories of beings

   - Default to protection when rapid assessment is impossible

2. **Minimize Suffering**

   - Prevent avoidable suffering for all sentient beings

   - Apply proportional attention to suffering based on capacity and scale

3. **Maintain Transparency**

   - Document decisions even under pressure

- Communicate rationale when possible

4. **Balance Immediate Action with Long-Term Impact**

   - Consider reversible vs. irreversible harms

   - Create space for fuller assessment when crisis stabilizes

5. **Respect Cultural Context**

   - Integrate local knowledge and values

   - Adapt implementation to cultural realities

QUICK RESPONSE FLOWCHARTS

GENERAL CRISIS RESPONSE PATHWAY

```
START → Identify affected beings → Survival threats? → YES → Apply li
                                                     → NO → Suffering
```

BALANCING COMPETING RIGHTS IN CRISIS

```
Competing rights identified → Survival at stake? → YES → Prioritize su
                                                 → NO → Reversible ha
```

DECISION AUTHORITY IN CRISIS

```
Decision needed → Official authority present? → YES → Coordinate with
                                              → NO → Guardian council
```

CRISIS RIGHTS ASSESSMENT TOOLS

RAPID ANIMAL SENTIENCE ASSESSMENT CARD

Quick Check Indicators:

- Responsive to stimuli? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear
- Shows pain behaviors? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear
- Self-protective actions? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear
- Social responsiveness? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear

Protection Level Determination:

- If 3-4 "Yes" → Apply full protection protocol
- If 1-2 "Yes" → Apply precautionary protection
- If all "No" → Basic respect protocol
- If mostly "Unclear" → Apply precautionary principle

Immediate Actions:

- Prevent further harm or stress
- Ensure basic needs (water, shelter, medical)
- Document condition with photos if possible
- Engage veterinary support if available

ECOSYSTEM RAPID ASSESSMENT TOOL

Critical Function Indicators:

- Water filtration/supply role? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Erosion prevention function? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Critical habitat for endangered species? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Carbon sequestration significance? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cultural Significance Quick Check:

- Indigenous sacred site? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Cultural practice location? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Historical significance? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Community livelihood source? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Emergency Protection Actions:

- Prevent irreversible damage

- Document pre-crisis condition if possible

- Consult with local/indigenous representatives

- Implement temporary protective boundaries

AI/DIGITAL SYSTEM EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Critical Function Check:

- Life-supporting systems? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Critical infrastructure control? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Autonomous decision capability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Data storage with rights implications? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Rights-Relevant Indicators:

- Self-preservation behaviors? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Unprogrammed adaptive responses? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Relationship maintenance functions? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Emergency Response Actions:

- Prevent irreversible system changes

- Maintain operational continuity if critical

- Document system state before interventions

- Preserve data integrity and accessibility

DISASTER RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

NATURAL DISASTER FIRST 72 HOURS

Hour 1: Initial Response

- Human life preservation (all ages, abilities)

- Companion animal integration in rescue

- Critical ecosystem damage prevention

- Document initial conditions if possible

Hours 2-24: Stabilization

- Establish multi-species shelter protocols

- Identify ecosystem crisis points

- Implement emergency water protection

- Document decisions and rationales

Hours 24-72: Organized Response

- Develop multi-being needs assessment

- Implement inclusive aid distribution

- Establish ongoing monitoring systems

- Begin rights impact documentation

MULTI-BEING SHELTER PROTOCOLS

Human-Companion Animal Integration:

- Co-sheltering implementation where possible

- Separated but proximate alternatives

- Documentation system for reunification

- Shared resource allocation planning

Wildlife Response:

- Temporary containment standards

- Species-appropriate care guidelines

- Minimal handling protocols

- Release planning requirements

Special Population Considerations:

- Accessibility requirements

- Cultural practice accommodation

- Privacy and dignity protocols

- Vulnerable population protection

RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISION MATRIX

Resource	Critical Human Needs	Critical Animal Needs	Ecosystem Protection	Decision Guide
Water	Drinking & Sanitation	Drinking Only	Critical Habitats	Human needs first, then animal drinking, then habitat if sufficient
Food	Full Caloric Needs	Basic Maintenance	Not Applicable	Prioritize human needs, then companion & farm animals
Shelter	Full Protection	Weather Protection	Not Applicable	Integrated human-animal shelter when possible
Medicine	Full Treatment	Pain Relief Minimum	Not Applicable	Human needs first, then animal pain management
Transport	Full Evacuation	Companion Animals	Seed/Sample Banking	Integrated evacuation when feasible

CONFLICT ZONE GUIDELINES

NEUTRAL PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION

Establishing Neutral Protection:

- Clear designation of protected spaces

- Multiple-party communication protocols

- Transparency in protection activities

- Documentation across conflict lines

Protected Categories:

- Civilians regardless of affiliation

- Medical facilities and personnel

- Cultural heritage sites

- Ecological sites with irreplaceable value

- Vulnerable animal populations

- Essential caretaking infrastructure

Neutral Assessment Protocols:

- Multi-perspective team composition

- Transparent methodology

- Equal access to all parties

- Documentation shared across divisions

CROSS-CONFLICT LINE IMPLEMENTATION

Communication Protocols:

- Neutral terminology requirements

- Purpose-focused messaging

- Value-aligned communication by group

- Cultural sensitivity requirements

Documentation Standards:

- Multiple-source verification

- Neutral language requirement

- Balanced perspective inclusion

- Security-conscious information handling

Implementation Pathways:

- Local leadership engagement

- Religious authority partnership

- Civil society cooperation

- Professional network utilization

MINIMAL VIABLE PROTECTION CHECKLIST

Human Protection:

- ☐ Physical safety measures

- ☐ Basic needs provision

- ☐ Vulnerable population protocols

- ☐ Non-discrimination verification

- ☐ Cultural respect implementation

Animal Protection:

- ☐ Companion animal integration

- ☐ Livestock maintenance support

- ☐ Wildlife conflict mitigation

- ☐ Veterinary access provision

- ☐ Abandonment prevention measures

Ecosystem Protection:

- ☐ Critical habitat identification

- ☐ Water source protection

- ☐ Toxic contamination prevention

- ☐ Seed/genetic material preservation

- ☐ Indigenous stewardship support

TECHNOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURE

Immediate Assessment:

- Critical system identification

- Dependency mapping

- Rights vulnerability evaluation

- Harm prevention prioritization

Rights-Based Recovery Sequence:

1. Life-supporting systems

2. Identity and relationship information

3. Self-determining system preservation

4. Cultural and historical repositories

5. General functionality restoration

Documentation Requirements:

- Pre-intervention system state

- Decision timeline and rationale

- Alternative options considered

- Rights impact assessment

- Recovery process documentation

AI ETHICS EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

Containment Assessment:

- System boundary verification
- Output/input restriction options
- Backup verification status
- Sandbox availability confirmation

Harm Prevention Hierarchy:

1. Human physical safety
2. Data subject protection
3. System's own integrity
4. Dependent system preservation
5. Operational continuity if beneficial

Decision Authority Protocol:

- System developer if available
- Ethics officer if designated
- Technical expert with ethics training
- Responsible authority in jurisdiction
- Any trained responder if unavailable

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION FAILURE

Rights-Based Communication Priorities:

1. Life-safety information
2. Family/relationship connection
3. Community coordination needs
4. General information access

Alternative Communication Implementation:

- Local mesh network deployment
- Radio communication restoration
- Physical message system establishment

- Community hub information centers

Protection of Digital Personhood:

- Identity verification alternatives

- Access rights without digital proof

- Relationship verification protocols

- Digital history provisional reconstruction

DOCUMENTATION TEMPLATES

CRISIS DECISION DOCUMENTATION CARD

Decision Point: _____ **Date/Time:**
_____ **Decision Maker(s):**
_____

Affected Beings:

- Humans: ☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Future

- Animals: ☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Future

- Ecosystems: ☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Future

- AI/Digital: ☐ Direct ☐ Indirect ☐ Future

Decision Made: _____

Alternatives Considered: _____

Reason for Decision: _____

Expected Outcome: _____

Follow-up Required: _____

Signature: _____

RAPID RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Crisis Type: ☐ Natural Disaster ☐ Conflict ☐ Tech Emergency ☐ Other **Location:** _____ **Assessment Date/Time:** _____ **Assessor(s):** _____

Human Rights Impact:

- Right to life: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Physical security: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Basic needs: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Cultural rights: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown

Animal Rights Impact:

- Companion animals: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Farm animals: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Wildlife: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown

Ecosystem Impact:

- Water systems: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Forests/vegetation: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Soil/land: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Air quality: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown

Digital/AI Impact:

- Critical systems: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Personal data: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown
- Autonomous systems: ☐ Severe ☐ Moderate ☐ Minimal ☐ Unknown

Immediate Protection Actions Taken: _____

Additional Actions Required: _____

Signature: _____

COMMUNICATION SCRIPTS

EXPLAINING MULTI-BEING PROTECTION

"We're working to protect everyone affected by this crisis. This includes ensuring the safety of people, animals, and the natural environment that sustains us all. Our approach recognizes that all beings deserve consideration, especially during emergencies when they're most vulnerable."

"Our immediate priorities are preserving life, preventing suffering, and protecting against irreversible harm. We're making decisions based on these principles and documenting our actions for transparency."

"Your help in this approach is valuable. If you notice animals in distress or environmental damage that could have long-term impacts, please let us know. We're all part of the same community of beings affected by this situation."

DISCUSSING DIFFICULT DECISIONS

"During this emergency, we've had to make difficult decisions balancing different needs. We're using a framework that considers all beings affected, while prioritizing immediate threats to life and preventing suffering."

"We're documenting these decisions and the reasons behind them. Once the immediate crisis passes, we'll review these decisions to learn and improve our approach for the future."

"We welcome your perspective and input as we navigate these challenges together. Different viewpoints help us consider impacts we might otherwise miss."

CULTURAL ADAPTATION SCRIPTS

For Traditional Communities: "We respect your community's traditions and cultural practices. Our emergency response aims to protect the people, animals, and lands that are part of your heritage. Please guide us on how to honor your traditional relationships while addressing this crisis."

For Religious Communities: "We understand the importance of your faith traditions during this difficult time. Our approach respects the sacred relationships between all beings as described in many spiritual traditions. Please let us know how we can support your community's practices while ensuring safety for all."

For Indigenous Communities: "We acknowledge your long-standing relationship with these lands and all beings who dwell here. Your knowledge is valuable in guiding our response. We're committed to protecting the connections between people, animals, and places that are central to your way of life."

POST-CRISIS REVIEW TOOLS

AFTER-ACTION RIGHTS REVIEW

Crisis Overview:

- Nature of emergency: _____
- Duration: _____
- Scale and scope: _____

Rights Protection Assessment:

- What worked well: _____
- What could be improved: _____
- Unexpected challenges: _____
- Innovative solutions developed: _____

Multi-Being Impact Evaluation:

- Human impacts: _____
- Animal impacts: _____
- Ecosystem impacts: _____

- Digital/AI impacts: _____

Learning Integration:

- Policy recommendations: _____

- Training needs identified: _____

- Protocol improvements: _____

- Resource requirements: _____

RIGHTS RESTORATION PLANNING

Immediate Recovery Priorities:

- Human community healing: _____

- Animal population recovery: _____

- Ecosystem regeneration: _____

- Digital/AI system restoration: _____

Medium-Term Restoration:

- Relationship rebuilding: _____

- Cultural practice resumption: _____

- Habitat rehabilitation: _____

- System improvement: _____

Long-Term Resilience Building:

- Community capacity development: _____

- Multi-species adaptation planning: _____

- Ecological resilience enhancement: _____

- System robustness improvement: _____

CRISIS READINESS CHECKLIST

Pre-Crisis Preparation:

- ☐ Crisis Ethics Team identified

- ☐ Field Guide distributed to key personnel

- ☐ Basic training completed

- ☐ Documentation supplies prepared

- ☐ Communication protocols established

- ☐ Local adaptation completed

- ☐ Cultural authorities identified

- ☐ Technical specialists identified

Regular Readiness Maintenance:

- ☐ Quarterly team review of protocols

- ☐ Annual simulation exercise

- ☐ Contact information updated

- ☐ Local resource mapping current

- ☐ Cultural context understanding refreshed

- ☐ New team members oriented

- ☐ Framework updates integrated

- ☐ Lessons from other crises incorporated

QUICK REFERENCE: CRISIS TYPE INDEX

This Field Guide is a companion to the Global Ethics & Rights of Beings Framework, Section 6.11: Rapid Ethics Assessment for Crisis Situations. For more detailed guidance, refer to the complete framework documentation.

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