



National  
Operational  
Guidance

# Training specification

## Incidents involving animals



**NFCC**  
Fire Central  
Programme Office

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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## Hazard - Incidents involving animals

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### Knowledge and understanding

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Hazard	Learning outcome
Incidents involving animals	Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Situational awareness: Animal incidents

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### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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Control measure element	Learning outcome
Prompt call information to inform the quantity of FRS resources required	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who may be able to provide information relating to animals involved in incidents</li><li>• The specific incident information that will assist personnel en-route and in attendance at animal incidents</li><li>• Additional information relating to the involvement of people</li><li>• The identification markers on or with the animal that could assist responders</li><li>• The information about animals that should be gathered from the owner</li></ul>



## Practical application

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### Control measure element

Prompt call information to inform the quantity of FRS resources required

### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Gather animal information from sources at the scene
  - Gather incident information from other sources
- Fire control room operators should:
- Gather animal related information from the caller and pass to responding fire and rescue personnel



## Control measure - Minimise the stress response of the animal

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Minimise the stress response of the animal

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- Factors that contribute to the stress response of animals
- The importance of minimising the stress response of the animal
- Methods of minimising stress to animals whilst on approach to the incident
- Methods of minimising stress to animals when personnel are within proximity

Refer to – [Understand animal behaviour – Operations training specification](#)



## Practical application

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### Control measure element

Minimise the stress response of the animal

### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Apply methods and techniques which minimise the stress response of animals



## Control measure - Cordon control: Animal incidents

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Cordons to control hazard zones

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- Factors that influence the size of hazard area relating to animals
- The use of specialist advice or assistance to determine cordon distances

Refer to – [Contain or avoid animals – Operations training specification](#)

Refer to – [Establish appropriate cordon controls – Incident command training specification](#)

### Practical application



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Cordons to control hazard zones

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Gather and use specialist advice or assistance to determine cordon distances
- Apply cordon distances appropriate to the nature of the incident in the absence of a responsible person

Refer to – [Contain or avoid animals – Operations training specification](#)

Refer to – [Establish appropriate cordon controls – Incident command training specification](#)



## Control measure - Specialist resources: Animal incidents

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Specialist resources and/or advice for incidents involving animals

Understand:

- Who can provide animal welfare advice and support
- The arrangements for requesting advice and support
- The importance of requesting specialist resources and/or advice in a timely manner

#### Practical application



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Specialist resources and/or advice for incidents involving animals

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify the need for specialist resources and request their attendance or assistance



## Control measure - Safe egress: Animal incidents

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Establish and maintain safe egress routes

Understand:

- The unpredictable nature of animal behaviour
- The importance of establishing appropriate egress routes relative to the animal involved

Refer to – [Understand animal behaviour – Operations training specification](#)

#### Practical application

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Establish and maintain safe egress routes

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish appropriate egress routes relative to the animal involved
- Communicate safe egress routes to emergency responders



## Control measure - Determine an appropriate destination for the animal



## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Determine an appropriate destination for the animal to a place of safety

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- How the uncontrolled release or evacuation of an animal could exacerbate the existing incident
- The considerations for an appropriate destination for a released or evacuated animal
- Arrangements for animal welfare after release or evacuation
- The considerations for onward transportation of an animal

### Practical application

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#### Control measure element

Determine an appropriate destination for the animal to a place of safety

#### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Liaise with a responsible person to determine an appropriate destination for a released or evacuated animal
- Identify an appropriate destination for a released or evacuated animal in the absence of a responsible person
- Initiate arrangements for animal welfare at the earliest opportunity
- Initiate arrangements for onward transportation of an animal where appropriate



## Control measure - Personal protective equipment (PPE): Animal incidents

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

The use of appropriate PPE when dealing with animals

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- The limitations of regular firefighting PPE to provide protection from animals
- Why regular PPE may cause distress to animals
- The type, use and benefits of specialist PPE at animal incidents
- Hygiene and decontamination procedures when dealing with animals

Refer to – [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) – Operations training specification](#)

### Practical application

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#### Control measure element

The use of appropriate PPE when dealing with animals

#### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Risk-assess activities involving animals to determine the appropriate and safe use of PPE
- Use and wear appropriate PPE at animal incidents
- Use PPE in a way that it does not cause distress to the animal
- Apply hygiene and decontamination procedures when dealing with animals

Refer to – [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) – Operations training specification](#)



## Control measure - Physical control or restraint of the animal

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Physical control or restraint of the animal to minimise risk

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- Why animals may require to be physically controlled or restrained
- The considerations prior to physically controlling or restraining an animal
- Methods and equipment used to physically control or restrain animals

### Practical application

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#### Control measure element

Physical control or restraint of the animal to minimise risk

#### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Risk-assess activities that require taking control of, or restraining an animal
- Use appropriate methods and equipment to physically control or restrain animals



## Control measure - Chemical control or restraint of the animal

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Chemical control or restraint of the animal

Understand:

- Why chemical methods may be used to control or restrain an animal
- Who may administer veterinary drugs to animals
- The effects of veterinary drugs on animals
- The additional hazards associated with the equipment used to administer veterinary drugs

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Chemical control or restraint of the animal

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify the need for chemical control or restraint of an animal
- Request the attendance of a veterinary surgeon to chemically control or restrain an animal
- Confirm relevant animal information with veterinary surgeon to inform the incident plan
- Identify a suitable and safe anaesthesia recovery area
- Communicate the presence and use of veterinary drugs and associated equipment to emergency responders



## Control measure - Contain the animal

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Contain the animal that presents a hazard or needs to be kept in a safe place

Understand:

- Methods of containing animals to prevent exposure or injury to people and the animal
- What constitutes a suitable improvised containment structure for animals
- Types of animal containment
- Welfare considerations for contained animals

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Contain the animal that presents a hazard or needs to be kept in a safe place

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and establish an appropriate area for animal containment
- Use appropriate techniques and equipment to contain animals
- Use veterinary or specialist advice
- Establish animal welfare arrangements



## Control measure - Move or lift the animal

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

The safe moving or lifting of an animal for rescue

Understand:

- The process of risk assessment to determine the safest method of lifting or movement of animals
- The techniques and equipment used to move or lift animals
- When additional resources and/or specialist assistance may be required to aid the movement, or lifting of animals

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

The safe moving or lifting of an animal for rescue

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Assess the need for an animal to be sedated prior to lifting or moving
- Move or lift animals using the most appropriate methods and equipment
- Adopt appropriate manual handling techniques when lifting or moving animals
- Monitor and maintain safe and effective movement of animals
- Prepare a contingency plan when lifting or moving animals is unachievable



## Control measure - Euthanasia of the animal

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Euthanasia of the animal

Understand:

- The legal responsibility of a person, in charge of an animal, to act, if an animal is suffering unnecessarily
- Factors that may influence euthanasia of an animal
- Methods of euthanasia
- Who may carry out euthanasia of an animal

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Euthanasia of the animal

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Assess the potential impact of euthanising an animal as part of the incident plan
- Communicate appropriate information to all emergency responders in respect of euthanising an animal



## Hazard - Animals at height or depth

**Knowledge and understanding**

**Hazard**

**Learning outcome**

Animals at height or depth

Understand all associated hazard knowledge

See [National Operational Guidance: Performing rescues – Search - Animals](#) and [National Operational Guidance: Sub-surface, height, structures and confined spaces – Work at height](#)



## Control measure - Access animals at height or depth



## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

#### Learning outcome

Access animal at height for rescue

Understand:

- The techniques and equipment that may be used to access an animal at height
  - The procedures for working at height activities
  - Additional hazards associated when working at height
- Refer to – Work at height - Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces training specification

### Practical application

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#### Control measure element

#### Learning outcome

Access animal at height for rescue

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to access animals at height
  - Identify and assess the safest methods of access and egress to rescue an animal at height
- Refer to – Work at height - Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces training specification



## Control measure - Deploy minimum resources to work at height

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Deploy minimum resources to minimise stress in the animal

Understand:  
• The appropriate use of resources and equipment to rescue animal(s) at height

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Deploy minimum resources to minimise stress in the animal

Demonstrate the ability to:  
• Establish safe systems of work and control measures to access animals at height



## Hazard - Animal in an enclosed space

**Knowledge and understanding**

**Hazard**

**Learning outcome**

Animal in an enclosed space

Understand all associated hazard knowledge  
See [National Operational Guidance: Subsurface, height, structures and confined spaces - Confined spaces](#)



## Control measure - Access animal in an enclosed space

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

**Knowledge and understanding**





**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Access animal in an enclosed space for rescue

Understand:

- The techniques and equipment that may be used to access an animal in an enclosed space
- The procedures for working in an enclosed space
- Additional hazards when working in an enclosed space

Refer to – Confined spaces - Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces training specification

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Access animal in an enclosed space for rescue

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to access animals in an enclosed space
- Identify and assess the safest methods of access and egress to rescue an animal in an enclosed space

Refer to – Confined spaces - Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces training specification



## Control measure - Restrict resources deployed to an enclosed space

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Deploy minimum resources to minimise stress in the animal

Understand:

- The appropriate use of resources and equipment to rescue animal(s) in an enclosed space



## Practical application

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### Control measure element

Deploy minimum resources to minimise stress in the animal

### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to access animals in an enclosed space



## Hazard - Animal in a structure

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## Knowledge and understanding

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### Hazard

Animal in a structure

### Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge

Refer to Hazard – Access animal in an enclosed space

See National Operational Guidance: Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces – [Above ground structures](#) – [Underground structures](#) – [Collapsed or unstable structures](#)



## Control measure - Access animal in a structure

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

## Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Access animal in a structure for rescue

Understand:

- Access arrangements and indemnity provision for buildings
- The techniques and equipment that may be used to access an animal within a structure
- The procedures for working within a structure
- Additional hazards when working within a structure

Refer to – All structure sections - Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces training specification

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Access animal in a structure for rescue

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Obtain permission to enter or manipulate a structure for animal rescue where appropriate
- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to access animals in a structure
- Use appropriate equipment and techniques to enter and remove an animal from a structure

Refer to – All structure sections - Subsurface, height, structure and confined spaces training specification



## Hazard - Animal in transit

**Knowledge and understanding**

**Hazard**

**Learning outcome**

Animal in transit

Understand all associated hazard knowledge  
See [National Operational Guidance: Transport](#)



## Control measure - Access animal in transit

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

##### Control measure element

##### Learning outcome

Access animal in transit for rescue

Understand:

- The requirement of permission to access a vehicle, from the registered keeper when appropriate
- The techniques and equipment that may be used to gain access to an animal within a vehicle
- The procedures for performing rescue of animals from vehicles

• Hazards and risk in the transport environment

Refer to – [Performing rescues training specification](#) and [Transport training specification](#)

#### Practical application

##### Control measure element

##### Learning outcome

Access animal in transit for rescue

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Obtain permission to enter or manipulate a vehicle for animal rescue where appropriate
- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to access animals in a vehicle
- Use appropriate equipment and techniques to enter and remove an animal from a vehicle

Refer to – [Performing rescues training specification](#) and [Transport training specification](#)





# Hazard - Animal in water, on ice, or on unstable ground

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## Knowledge and understanding

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### Hazard

Animal in water, on ice, or on unstable ground

### Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge  
See [National Operational Guidance: Performing rescues](#)



## Control measure - Extrication of animal from water or ice

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Extrication of animal from water or ice to a place of safety

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- How animals may react in water
- The techniques and equipment that may be used to extricate animals from water or ice
- The procedures for performing rescue of animals from water or ice
- Hazards when working in, on or near water and ice

Refer to – [Performing rescues training specification](#)

### Practical application



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Extrication of animal from water or ice to a place of safety

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to rescue animals from water or ice
- Use appropriate equipment and techniques to rescue animals from water or ice
- Establish hygiene and welfare arrangements for emergency responders and animals

Refer to – [Performing rescues training specification](#)



## Control measure - Extrication of animal unstable ground

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Extrication of animals from unstable ground to a place of safety

Understand:

- The considerations for working on or near to unstable ground, including mud flats
- The considerations for working on or near to unstable and fluid material
- The techniques and equipment that may be used to extricate animals from unstable ground
- The procedures for performing rescue of animals from unstable ground
- Hazards when working in, on or near unstable ground

Refer to – [Performing rescues training specification](#)



## Practical application

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### Control measure element

Extrication of animals from unstable ground to a place of safety

### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to rescue animals from unstable ground
- Use appropriate equipment and techniques to rescue animals from unstable ground
- Establish hygiene and welfare arrangements for emergency responders and animals

Refer to – [Performing rescues training specification](#)



## Hazard - Entangled animal

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### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Hazard

Entangled animal

#### Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Remove animal from the cause of entanglement

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Remove the cause of entanglement to release a trapped animal

Understand:

- The techniques, equipment and specialist resources that may be required to release an animal from entanglement
- Methods of reducing risk from high tensile wire fencing

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Remove the cause of entanglement to release a trapped animal

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish safe systems of work and control measures to remove animals from entanglement
- Use appropriate equipment and techniques to remove animals from entanglement



## Hazard - Animals requiring evacuation

**Knowledge and understanding**

**Hazard**

**Learning outcome**

Animals requiring evacuation

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Evacuate animals

**TRAINING SPECIFICATION**





## Knowledge and understanding

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### Control measure element

### Learning outcome

Co-ordinate and resource an animal rescue response to evacuate animals to a place of safety

Understand:

- The techniques used to evacuate animals to a place of safety
- The considerations prior to evacuating animals to a place of safety
- The use of specialist advice to assist with the evacuation of animals

## Practical application

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### Control measure element

### Learning outcome

Co-ordinate and resource an animal rescue response to evacuate animals to a place of safety

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Liaise with an appropriate responsible person to gather relevant information
- Assess the capability and limitations of emergency responders to carry out animal evacuation
- Identify and communicate, to emergency responders, safe routes, areas and techniques for animal evacuation



## Hazard - Animal requiring immediate first aid or resuscitation

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## Knowledge and understanding

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### Hazard

### Learning outcome

Animal requiring immediate first aid or resuscitation

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Immediate first aid for animal

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### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

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Control measure element	Learning outcome
Immediate first aid for animals in the absence of veterinary assistance	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The methods and equipment which may be used to safely apply first aid treatment to animals</li><li>• The sources of information available to responders about first aid treatment for animals</li><li>• The considerations prior to applying first aid treatment to animals</li><li>• The importance of requesting professional animal care at the earliest opportunity</li><li>• Local arrangements for stranded marine animals</li></ul>



#### Practical application

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Control measure element	Learning outcome
Immediate first aid for animals in the absence of veterinary assistance	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide immediate first aid in the absence of an animal care specialist</li><li>• Adopt safe systems of work and control measures to administer first aid to animals</li><li>• Use appropriate personal protective equipment when working with animals</li><li>• Request an animal care specialist</li></ul>



## Control measure - Resuscitation of animal

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## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

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#### Control measure element

Resuscitation of animal to save life in the absence of veterinary assistance

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- The methods and equipment which may be used to safely carry out cardiopulmonary resuscitation(CPR) on animals
- The sources of information available to responders about CPR for animals
- The considerations prior to carrying out CPR to animals
- The importance of requesting professional animal care at the earliest opportunity

### Practical application

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#### Control measure element

Resuscitation of animal to save life in the absence of veterinary assistance

#### Learning outcome

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Assess the suitability of equipment for resuscitating animals
- Adopt safe systems of work and control measures to resuscitate animals
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment when resuscitating animals
- Request an animal care specialist