



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Control measure

**Clean equipment, vehicles and  
personal protective equipment (PPE)**



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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### Control measure knowledge

All personal protective equipment (PPE), clothing and equipment should be thoroughly inspected. Any debris such as mud, plant or animal matter should be removed and left at the site. Attention should be paid to the seams and seals of boots and waders. Any pockets of pooled water should be emptied.

Equipment should be hosed down or pressure washed on site. The resulting contaminated water should be contained on site and not be allowed to enter any other watercourse or drainage system. Once cleaned, equipment may require dipping in disinfectant solution. This will prevent the spread of some diseases but is unlikely to kill non-native species. However, submersion in hot water for 15 minutes is an effective biosecurity measure. If facilities are not available, on-site equipment should be carefully contained.

The best way to prevent transfer of waterborne species is to thoroughly dry equipment and PPE after use. Equipment should be dried for 48 hours before being used again. The drying process should be thorough, as some non-native species can survive for up to 15 days in damp conditions and two days in dry conditions. This may not be possible and alternative methods should be considered.

### Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Work with environmental agencies, government departments and emergency planning groups to provide support, guidance, training and resources to reduce biosecurity risks
- Develop and maintain appropriate records for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI)

### Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:



- Use appropriate methods to clean and decontaminate equipment, vehicles and PPE
- Consider liaising with environmental agencies for advice and support to decontaminate equipment and personnel