



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

Knowledge and understanding

Hazard	Learning outcome
Incidents involving animals	Understand all associated hazard knowledge



Control measure - Situational awareness: Animal incidents

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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



Practical application

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

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

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

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

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

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



TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

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



TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Knowledge and understanding

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

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

Knowledge and understanding

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

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

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

Knowledge and understanding

Hazard

Entangled animal

Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



Control measure - Remove animal from the cause of entanglement

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

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

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

Knowledge and understanding

Hazard

Learning outcome

Animal requiring immediate first aid or resuscitation

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



Control measure - Immediate first aid for animal

TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

Practical application

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">• Provide immediate first aid in the absence of an animal care specialist• Adopt safe systems of work and control measures to administer first aid to animals• Use appropriate personal protective equipment when working with animals• Request an animal care specialist



Control measure - Resuscitation of animal



TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

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

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