



National
Operational
Guidance

Control measure

Avoid, contain or control animals



NFCC
Fire Central
Programme Office

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Control measure knowledge

Unless attending an incidents involving animals, personnel should try to avoid any animals present.

If animals cannot be avoided, they may need to be contained or controlled in order to keep them away from members of the public, the incident and emergency responders. It may be necessary to seek specialist advice or assistance for dealing with animals.

The activities of emergency responders, such using lights and generating noise, may increase the stress response of animals. Movements of emergency responders, equipment and vehicles should be kept to a minimum in the vicinity of animals.

Guidance for dealing with animals is contained in the National Operational Guidance: [Incidents involving animals](#), in particular under the following control measures:

- [Minimise the stress response of the animal](#)
- [Specialist resources: Animal incidents](#)
- [Physical control or restraint of the animal](#)
- [Chemical restraint of the animal](#)
- [Contain the animal](#)

Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Ensure that information about animals, where held in a permanent location, is included in Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI)



Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Identify and communicate the presence of animals, and any associated hazards, to emergency responders and the public
- Minimise the stress response of animals
- Seek specialist advice or assistance for dealing with animals
- Avoid, contain or control animals if necessary
- Ensure personnel do not touch or handle animals unless unavoidable
- Consider contingency arrangements if personnel may become isolated in areas where animals present a risk
- Avoid unnecessary contact with animals
- Seek specialist advice about antidotes, antivenom or specialist treatment