



National  
Operational  
Guidance

# Hazard

## 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

Incidents involving animals

#### Learning outcome

Understand all associated hazard knowledge



## Control measure - Situational awareness: Animal incidents

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

#### Control measure element

Prompt call information to inform the quantity of FRS resources required

#### Learning outcome

Understand:

- 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

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The identification markers on or with the animal that could assist responders

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The information about animals that should be gathered from the owner



## 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



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**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**

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**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