Aide Memoire
Flowchart

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Incident Review
Incident Conclusion

Document overview
Animals suffering physical entrapment, beyond the lifting capabilities of one person or requiring specialist equipment.

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<tr>
<th>Ref No:</th>
<th>Lead FRS:</th>
<th>Hampshire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Issue:</td>
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Enter Title – Aide Memoire

En Route
- Consider no blue lights and sirens on approach.
- Plan for potential difficult access

Initial Actions
- Liaise with owner / caller.
- Do not take unnecessary risks to save an animal or in preparation work.
- Consider traffic management / police if transport networks likely to be involved.
- Ensure appropriate large animal veterinarian has been mobilised
- Remove endangered public / owners
- Establish and maintain cordon.
- Appoint a safety observer (replace with AR2 on arrival).
- Create tactical plan: intervene if skills permit or await additional attendance / advice.
- Identify location to secure rescued animal.
- Clear access routes of debris and vegetation (if this does not unduly disturb animal).
- Stabilise any vehicles involved.
- Appoint crew member to marshal oncoming appliances / resources
- Assess the environment for danger to crews.

Risk Information

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<tr>
<th>Primary Hazards</th>
<th>Key Control Measures</th>
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<td>Comply with FRS lone working procedures</td>
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<td>Intimidation, violence, irrational behaviour.</td>
<td>Cordons: access, egress, working areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crush / firefighter entrapment.</td>
<td>Defined routes for rescuers and animals.</td>
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<td>Unpredictable animal behaviour.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinary medicines, needles.</td>
<td>Eye protection and gloves.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biohazards.</td>
<td>Liaison: vets, owners, police, RSPCA, utilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual handling of equipment.</td>
<td>Safety observer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical lifting equipment.</td>
<td>Scene lighting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls into unstable surfaces, water, ice.</td>
<td>Quick release lifting equipment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structural collapse.</td>
<td>Consider unstable surfaces , water and work at height procedures.</td>
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<td>High tensile fencing.</td>
<td>Hygiene procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity: fences, high voltage, overhead.</td>
<td>Decontamination.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Incident Information
- Time of day considerations. Will it get dark? Scene lighting.
- Underfoot considerations.
- Temperature considerations.
- Locations of natural cordons.
- If herd animals are involved, locate remainder of herd and the direct route to them.
### Resources Information

- Identify any local lifting equipment and operators.
- Consider off-road vehicle.
- Consider time taken for specialist responders to arrive.

### As Incident Develops

- AR2 / AR3 take responsibility for safety.
- Ascertain history, animal traits, likes, dislikes (e.g. men, blindfolds), inability to twitch, demeanour, gender, breed, age, degree of human contact.
- Determine final secure destination prior to rescue.
- Consider public safety issues and resolve.
- Additional caution for entire males, females nursing young or dangerous breeds such as Arab, thoroughbred horses or native cattle.
- Plan rescue and secondary plan.
- Consider viability of animal. Discuss with vet and owner.
- Discuss preferred extrication method with vet.
- Discuss chemical restraint with vet.
- Brief all in attendance of tactical plan.
- Ensure head control.
- Observe kicking and head butt zones at all times.
- Safe egress at all times for crew.
- Regular PPE checks for suitability and integrity.
- Tool and equipment management.
- Crew welfare.
**Flowchart – Animal Rescue Large**

En route and on arrival

**Safety Critical Actions**
- Do not take unnecessary risks.
- Remove endangered public / owners.
- Establish cordons.
- Assess environment for danger to crews

**Initial Actions**
- Liaise with owner / caller / other agencies / vet.
- Appoint safety observer (replace with AR2 later).
- Identify location to secure rescued animal.
- Clear routes of debris and vegetation if animal not unduly disturbed.
- Stabilise any vehicles involved.
- Appoint marshalling officer.

**Tactical Plan**
Can skills at scene undertake rescue?

- Yes
  - Await additional attendance / advice
  - As Incident Develops
  - Ascertain history, demeanour and traits of animal
  - Resolve any public safety issues.
  - Plan rescue and secondary rescue plan with vet.
  - Regular PPE checks.
  - Tool and equipment management.

- No
  - Consider no lights and sirens.
  - Plan for potential difficult access.
  - Post incident:
    - Decontamination.
    - Offer advice to prevent re-occurrence.
    - Debrief crews – report any injuries.
    - Health surveillance as appropriate.
    - Inform RSPCA of any concerns.

**Significant Hazards:**
- Lone working.
- Intimidation, violence, irrational behaviour.
- Crush / firefighter entrapment.
- Unpredictable animal behaviour.
- Veterinary medicines, needles.
- Biohazards.
- Manual handling of equipment.
- Mechanical lifting equipment.
- Underground hazards.
- Falls into unstable surfaces, water, ice.
- Structural collapse.
- High tensile fencing.
- Electricity: fences, high voltage, overhead.
- Working at height.
- Restricted visibility / darkness.
- Hazardous materials.
- Noise.
- Extremes of temperature.
- Post traumatic stress.

**Consider**
- Location of herd
- Light and weather conditions.
- Off road vehicle
- Use of natural cordons.
- Local lifting equipment and operators.
- Viability of animal (discuss with vet).
- Crew welfare.
- Additional caution for entire males, females nursing young, dangerous breeds.
**Supporting Information – Animal Rescue Large**

1 Introduction

1.1 Large animals for the benefit of this animal rescue SOP are defined as ‘Animals suffering physical entrapment, beyond the lifting capabilities of one person (HSE guidance Male 20kg - Female 15kg) or requiring specialist equipment’.

1.2 Large animal rescues present a wide range of hazards from not only the distressed animal itself but possibly also from other animals in the locality, people (well meaning or not) and the working environment itself. Awareness of both animal and human behaviour supported by suitable animal rescue equipment and PPE will play an important part in the safe operations of everyone at the incident scene. Full use should be made by incident commanders of fire service specialist animal rescue personnel.

1.3 Terminology

| AR1 – Basic | Animal rescue aware (all FRS personnel will have received safety ‘awareness’ training) |
| AR2 – Advanced | Animal rescue trained (Personnel trained in a variety of standard animal behaviour, handling and rescue methods) |
| AR3 – Specialist/Instructor | Animal rescue trained (Specialists with advanced knowledge of animal behaviour and handling, rescue techniques, welfare contacts, Veterinary techniques and incident tactical advice) |
2 Initial Actions

Actions on Arrival

2.1 IC of the first appliance should liaise with the owner or caller to gather information regarding the incident and casualties. Carry out an immediate assessment to determine human life risk. If necessary, remove all persons from the risk area.

2.2 Once human life has been safeguarded carry out an assessment of the animal and the environment it is trapped in.

2.3 If first attending crews are not trained to AR2 level, their responsibilities will consist of safeguarding the scene, carrying out immediate measures to protect human life and assessing the animal’s condition. Unless the animal can be released by carrying out simple measures without endangering the crew, personnel should await arrival of Fire Service specialist animal rescue teams.

2.4 Veterinary Request - owner in attendance

a) If the owner or responsible person is not present, attempts should be made to contact them.

b) An appropriate Veterinarian should be requested. The majority of Veterinary practices treat small animals and will not be equipped to treat large animals. On the whole, large animal Vets will be able to treat both cattle and horses but if possible a specialist equine or farm animal Vet should be requested determined by the species involved.

c) Owner to contact their regular Vet.

d) If unavailable or arrival time is excessive: contact the nearest Equine or Farm animal Vet practice utilising the Emergency Services Veterinary Directory through Fire Control or locally from the incident.

2.5 Veterinary Request - owner not in attendance

a) Contact the nearest Equine or Farm animal Vet practice utilising the Emergency Services Veterinary Directory through Fire Control or locally from the incident.

b) Payment for emergency situations where no owner or responsible person is present can be arranged in the following ways:

(1) Vets may claim from the British Equine Veterinary Association Emergency Fund associated with the Emergency Services Directory if they are unable to trace an owner.

(2) The RSPCA can authorise payment for a Vet to carry out emergency treatment. The RSPCA will be automatically informed of an incident at mobilisation time and will make every effort to attend subject to
incident type and their availability. The RSPCA Inspector or Collections Officer tasked with the incident will contact the IC by telephone. The IC can then discuss the need for attendance of a Vet through the RSPCA and if required this can be facilitated early on rather than wait for the Inspector to arrive at scene.

2.6 **Rescue Scene Preparation**

a) Do not subject personnel to undue risks in order to rescue an animal

b) The IC must ensure that training competences are not exceeded

c) Never release an animal unless you have a safe and secure place prepared for it.

d) First Attendance

(1) Remove endangered public / owners

(2) Establish and maintain cordons. (FRS have duty of care for all persons within the inner cordon)

(3) Appoint a safety observer, to be replaced by AR2 on arrival

(4) Ensure sufficient level of PPE for anyone in the inner cordon

(5) Determine safe access route for all response personnel to the incident site

(6) Determine whether to affect rescue or await additional advice from either an AR2 (Advanced - Animal rescue trained) or an AR3 (Specialist - Animal rescue trained) fire service responder

(7) If rescue within scope of AR1 level crew (Basic - Animal Rescue Awareness Trained) i.e. simple and safe, consider whether the animal can be safely secured post rescue without causing further safety issues.

e) AR1 crews awaiting the arrival of AR2 Team or AR3 Specialist should undertake:

(1) Identify and provide safe access and egress to and from the scene of operations for personnel and equipment.

(2) If necessary clear away vegetation, wire, fences etc to improve access to the animal provided they do not unnecessarily cause further distress or trauma or enter risk areas

(3) If an incident occurs on the road networks consider traffic management, road closures and if safe stabilise vehicles

(4) Identify locally available lifting equipment and operators
(5) Discern whether this will be a protracted incident which may require the setting up of lighting

(6) Appoint a guide to marshal oncoming appliances and place direction signs/lights

(7) Assess the environment for danger to crews, or hazards that may require particular care or control measures, e.g. overhead power lines, unstable ground, slurry lagoons/pits, other animals, machinery, high voltage electricity etc

(8) If herd animals are involved, locate the rest of the herd and a direct route to them

**Significant Hazards and Control Measures**

2.7 Minimum PPE: helmet, steel toe capped boots, leggings and surgical gloves.

2.8 Consider: dry suit, thermal underlayer, manual life jacket or buoyancy aid with quick release, eye and ear protection, respiratory protection, gloves, working at height equipment, body protector, high visibility clothing.

| **Difficult Access Routes** | ♦ Cautious vehicle approach  
| including ditches, heavy vegetation, locked gates, pedestrian only gates, weak cattle grids, low branches, inaccessible and unstable ground. | ♦ Consider off-road vehicle.  
| Time of year (i.e. previous rainfall) is often a key factor. | |

| **Lone working** | ♦ Comply with FRS lone working procedures.  
| conditions will increase the consequences of any hazardous conditions present surrounding the incident scene i.e. weather and ground conditions. | ♦ High visibility clothing.  
| ♦ Liaise with other agencies. | |

| **Intimidation or violence.** On rare occasions, officers attending incidents have been subjected to verbal and physical abuse especially when it has been implied that the FRS are unable to offer assistance. This may lead to a moral pressure to act and affect the judgement of the officer. Animal owners and assistants may exhibit the following behaviour at a rescue: | ♦ Comply with FRS violence and aggression procedures.  
| ♦ Consider withdrawal. | ♦ Cordon FRS working areas.  
| ♦ Consider request for Police. | ♦ Ensure clear communication and understanding of FRS requirements.  
| ♦ Ensure correct PPE in risk area. | ♦ Consider safety observers.  
| ♦ High emotion, often irrational and sometimes aggressive. | ♦ Put themselves at great risk. |
- May try to direct firefighters to perform practices that are dangerous.
- Feelings of guilt fear and anger.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irrational behaviour of non FRS personnel</th>
<th>Cordons.</th>
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<td>at the scene, including other agencies can be a risk to firefighters.</td>
<td>Liaison.</td>
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**Crush or Entrapment.** Animals rolling or being mechanically lifted may endanger firefighters and others in the vicinity. This may be especially relevant if the space for the rescuers is cramped.

- Cordons.
- Animal rescue trained personnel in risk area.
- Body protector and hard protection.
- Clear designated routes for rescuers.
- Consider space creation.
- Liaison with vet.
- Safety observer
- Lighting.
- Consider respiratory protection.

**Unpredictable Animal Behaviour** due to herd instinct of fear. May be stimulated by noise or rescuers actions during the entrapment and on release such as taking the most direct route to the herd. Working in restricted spaces could increase the likelihood of harm to the rescuers. Even sedation / chemical restraint may not prevent unpredictable behaviour.

- Animal rescue trained personnel only in risk area.
- The presence of other animals or members of the herd should be established particularly when taking down fences or opening gates for access prior to rescue.
- Consider other animals at the scene that may react aggressively with herd or pack behaviour. Weigh removal of herd animals against the likely adverse stress reaction of the entrapped animal but with overriding regard for the safety of all those present.
- Determine and keep clear animal egress route as an initial consideration.
- Determine egress route for rescuers prior to entry.
- Never have a false sense of security with large animals appearing calm.
- Communicate information to all responders and owner.
- Liaise with vet regarding chemical restraint and benefits of other animals in risk area.
- Liaise with Natural England / RSPCA prior to release of non-indigenous species.
- Use of quick release equipment if animal is mechanically lifted.

Horses will give up easily, rest for a while and then explode momentarily before calming again. This unpredictable behavioural process will continue if not controlled.

Herd behaviour may lead to crowding by other herd members which may hinder the operation.

Partially trapped animals can cause themselves and rescuers more damage during the rescue if not properly handled/restrained during operations.

The following outlines anticipated behaviour of herd animals in a
### Fear State:
- Butting - cattle, rams, goats
- Biting - horses (particularly stallions), pigs, goats
- Kicking – horses, cattle, llamas
- Crushing - cattle, pigs, horses
- Impaling/goring - bulls, deer
- Spitting - alpacas, Llamas

Other dangers include being trapped by a rolling animal or trodden on.

Entire males of any species should be regarded with immense caution as they can react with extreme speed and aggression.

Females protecting young may also react uncharacteristically to a perceived threat. Any animal with enhanced emotion, size and weight are likely to pose a significant risk.

### Veterinary Medicines
Veterinary medicines are designed to treat animals which could be 10 times the weight of a human and therefore could deliver a lethal dose if not strictly managed.

- Cordons.
- Additional safety briefing to personnel in vicinity.
- Safe containment.
- Consider safety observer.
- Consider provision of sharps box.
- Liaise with vet.

### Biohazards
Biohazards and zoonotic infections are conditions and diseases contracted from an animal or its environment.

**WARNING - PREGNANT FEMALE FF’s ARE AT SPECIFIC RISK** – Pregnant women who come into close contact with sheep during lambing may risk their own health and that of their unborn child, from infections that can occur in some ewes. These include chlamydiosis (enzootic abortion of ewes - EAE), toxoplasmosis and listeriosis, which are common

- Hygiene procedures
- Hazmat and decontamination procedures
- Welfare procedures
- Post exposure reporting
- Health surveillance
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>causes of abortion in ewes.</strong></th>
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</table>
| **Manual Handling.** The weight of an animal should be estimated in relation to manual handling operations. Additionally, there is risk of musculoskeletal injuries due to working in spaces with restricted access, moving equipment and/or casualty animal/s. | ♦ Consider vehicle positioning to facilitate manual handling.  
♦ Designated access and egress routes.  
♦ Consider TILE (task, individual, load, environment).  
♦ Consider mechanical assistance.  
♦ Consider space creation. |
| **Mechanical lifting equipment,** particularly when utilising non FRS lifting equipment and outside assistance/operators. Additionally, use of mechanical lifting equipment can cause significant injury/harm to the animal and rescuers if not operated correctly. | ♦ Cordons.  
♦ Safety observer.  
♦ Minimum numbers in vicinity during lifting operations. |
| **Underground hazards.** Examples include cesspits, drains, wells, tanks, mines or tunnels. Structural collapse may have weakened surrounding ground. | ♦ Cordons  
♦ Work at height procedures.  
♦ Designated routes. |
| **Unstable Ground and Surfaces including Water and Ice.** Water sources might be static, running, tidal or frozen. Unstable surfaces and fluid materials such as water, ice, slurry, grain and in particular linseed provide a risk of drowning and asphyxiation. Rescues from mud in estuarial waters present a significant risk that may be increased by tidal movement. Water and ice rescue incidents significantly increase the danger at an animal rescue due to the lack of egress afforded to personnel committed. Large animals can swim to varying degrees but may become tired quickly. It may not be viable to rescue animals, particularly from swift water incidents. | ♦ Avoid unstable ground on access.  
♦ Assess risks versus benefits of rescues, especially from swift water.  
♦ Use unstable surface / water procedures where unavoidable.  
♦ Cordons.  
♦ Scene lighting.  
♦ Consider work restraint equipment. |
| Structural Collapse. Buildings, pits, shafts and mines may not be structurally sound. | ♦ Cordon / avoidance routes  
♦ Safety observer. |
|---|---|
| **High Tensile fencing (H-T or HT)** is a special hard, springy steel wire that may be a single strand plain, barbed, or woven mesh. Post spacing is wide and may have thin metal or wooden spacers (or 'droppers) between the posts. It can be insulated and electrified. | ♦ Avoid cutting.  
♦ Eye protection in vicinity.  
♦ Brief all in risk area. |
| **Electricity.** Electric fences will differ in strength depending on the livestock contained. Some are attached to a vehicle battery and others to the mains supply. Overhead power lines may be a factor where lifting equipment is used. | ♦ Consider isolation.  
♦ Define hazard areas and cordon.  
♦ Consider safety observer.  
♦ Liaise with utilities as appropriate. |
| **Working at height** might be necessary to carry out a rescue. | ♦ Working at height procedures.  
♦ Consider safe working platforms.  
♦ Consider specialist rescue teams. |
| **Restricted visibility and darkness** not only hamper rescues but hide dangers commonly associated with farms such as low overhead power lines, machinery, pits, holes and slurry lagoons. | ♦ Scene lighting.  
♦ Avoidance routes. |
| **Hazardous materials** such as poisons, chemicals, asthmagens, asbestos and gases may all be present on agricultural establishments. | ♦ Avoid hazardous material contact.  
♦ Instigate cordons.  
♦ Hazardous materials procedures.  
♦ Decontamination procedures. |
| **Noise.** Excessive noise presents two risks:  
♦ Hampering communication of risk critical information.  
♦ Noise induced hearing loss. | ♦ Instigate secondary means of communications if necessary.  
♦ Consider safety observer.  
♦ Cordons.  
♦ Hearing protection. |
| **Exposure to Extremes of Temperature.** This may be exposure to hot or cold working conditions especially at incidents in mud, water protracted incidents in exposed locations. Cramped conditions for rescuers | ♦ Consider different levels of outer PPE.  
♦ Consider FRS welfare procedures.  
♦ Consider limiting exposure time. |
| may lead to elevated core body temperature. | • Post traumatic stress, long or short term stress due to involvement in or witnessing rescue activities. |
| Post Traumatic Stress, long or short term stress due to involvement in or witnessing rescue activities. | • Post incident welfare / debriefing procedures. |
3  As Incident Develops

Actions

3.1  Further actions, on arrival of AR2/ AR3 fire service trained members

   a)  Ascertain the following points:

   b)  Species, breed, age, sex

   c)  Normal demeanour

   d)  Medical history and any current conditions

   e)  What human contact the animal is accustomed to

   f)  Special dislikes, for instance an aversion to men, inability to twitch or blindfold

   g)  Identify what has caused the situation and where the animal has come from

   h)  Determine the final safe and secure destination for the animal prior to rescue. Consider any public safety issues surrounding the release of the animal and ensure these are controlled or removed before commencement of rescue.

   i)  Be especially cautious if it is an entire male of any species, a female nursing young or of a particularly dangerous breed such as Arab or Thoroughbred horses or native cattle.

   j)  Consider viability of the animal with the Vet and owner before committing to a rescue

   k)  Discuss with the Vet and IC the preferred method of extrication and determine a strategy.

   l)  Entering a confined space with a distressed animal should not be allowed under any circumstances until effective control measures are in place.

3.2  Determine a safe route and final secure destination for the animal prior to rescue. Consider any public safety issues surrounding the release of the animal and ensure these are controlled or removed before commencement of rescue.

3.3  Discuss with the Vet and IC:

   a)  The preferred method of extrication and determine a strategy.

   b)  Consider viability of the animal with the Vet and owner before committing to a rescue. If the risks outweigh the benefits or the animal is not of an age or condition that will ensure quality of life or usefulness after the rescue then the decision may be taken to euthanize the animal prior to extrication.
c) Fire and Rescue involvement in extricating euthanized animals will be based on an assessment by the IC which may be determined by the potential public safety hazard.

3.4 Always rescue animals using techniques agreed and endorsed by veterinarian and FRS professional associations as these are deemed to be safest and most appropriate for both casualty animal and rescuer.

3.5 In the event that the Vet enters the inner cordon they will be provided with a helmet if they do not have head protection.

3.6 Equipment and personnel holding points should be set up within the outer cordon and an equipment manager appointed from the AR2 personnel (as shown in Fig1). They will be responsible for providing the appropriate equipment as requested and ensuring that all equipment not being used is returned to the equipment dump. Due to the nature of most animal rescue environments, equipment can become lost or present a significant safety hazard if put down in vegetation.

3.7 Further Considerations for mechanical lifting operations:
   a) Carry out a risk assessment of the rescue site with particular regard to ground stability, overhead powerlines and safe jacking
   b) Ensure that the mechanical lifting device is capable of lifting the load and able to transfer the animal to a predetermined place of safety
   c) Determine whether to start the engine prior to the lift to accustom the animal to the noise or to remain quiet and distant until sufficient control measures are in place
   d) Ensure that at all times personnel have safe egress particularly if positioning the machine prior to stropping
   e) Ensure that the operator has clear line of site and banksmen utilise appropriate signals (consider remote control to improve visibility and communication)
   f) Ensure minimum personnel in the risk area when operating
   g) Do not allow personnel to stand or walk under booms
   h) Always utilise a quick release system in order to respond to unforeseen events
   i) Always consider chemical control prior to carrying out lifting operations with animals
   j) If utilising outside assistance when lifting ensure that steerage is carried out at long range
   k) Brief thoroughly and closely monitor any operator from other agencies or professions
l) Extreme caution should be exercised when utilising non FRS personnel and equipment. The competence of the operator and suitability of equipment must be considered, recorded on the analytical risk assessment and strict control measures applied.

Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.

Fig 1

3.8 Always employ safe systems of work and follow these key rules:

a) Ensure all personnel remain out of the kicking zones (Fig 2 and Fig 3)

b) Utilise heavy limb crooks as extensions of the arm when manipulating an animal’s limbs or placing strops around it

c) Be aware of the head butt zone

d) Avoid unnecessary stimulation of an animal by noise or action

e) Minimum personnel to be in the risk area

f) Consider the noise, actions and activities of crews, members of the public, owners, press etc outside the immediate risk area but within sight or in particular earshot of the trapped animal as this could cause distress or unwanted reactions.

g) No action should be taken in the risk area without all personnel being fully briefed and updated to avoid being caught out by a reaction to stimulation.

h) ENSURE ALL PERSONNEL MAINTAIN A SAFE EGRESS

i) Utilise working at height equipment to maintain contact with personnel who are down slopes, in shallow water or other positions where their immediate unaided withdrawal would be compromised.

“Safer” working area, animal on side

Fig 2

Kicking Zone
Standing horse

Do not approach or stand in red zones!

3 metre clear zone

Approach from this side at the shoulder

Not normally approached from this side

Fig 3
j) Ensure that once a plan has been established all personnel, external agencies and the owner have been briefed before commencement and at regular intervals during the incident.

k) Ensure that personnel have safe egress at all times.

l) Ensure that appropriate PPE has been applied and safety officers briefed.

m) **ENSURE APPROPRIATE HEAD RESTRAINT IS APPLIED TO THE ANIMAL PRIOR TO RESCUE.** (Do not tie lines or ropes around the necks of animals except in extreme circumstances).

n) An AR2 FF must remain in control of the animals head at all times.

o) If the person in control of the head would be in danger next to the animal, lengthen the lead rein or rope in order that they can retain contact at a safe distance.

p) The risk area at an animal rescue moves with the animal. Always brief the person on the head as to their actions if the animal becomes difficult to control or attempts to escape. This pre determined plan should be communicated to all in the risk area and beyond as the handler may need space to control and calm an animal.

3.9 **Chemical Control Measures (Sedation/Anaesthesia)**

a) If a Vet does not carry a sharps box one should be provided if available by the FRS.

b) Varying degrees of chemical control ranging from a mild tranquilizer to full field anaesthesia can be achieved determined by the method of extrication chosen, risk to firefighters and condition of the animal. Close liaison with the Vet to ascertain levels of consciousness and timescales should be undertaken.

c) **WARNING: A SEDATED HORSE CAN KICK SUDDENLY WITH KILLING FORCE AND ACCURACY**

d) Horses can be stimulated out of a sedated state immediately with little or no warning signs. It is difficult to read an animal under sedation and anticipate actions of fright or aggression. Therefore in order to guarantee a safe environment for rescuers full anaesthesia must be requested. This should be routinely applied to situations where firefighters may have to work in the kicking zone or in areas with no egress for a prolonged period, for instance horses trapped in cattle grids.

e) **DO NOT ENTER CONFINED SPACES WITH LARGE ANIMALS IN DISTRESS**

f) If there is a requirement to work in close proximity to an animal within a confined space consider restraint and stopping techniques that can be applied at a safe distance or utilise full anaesthesia.
**Considerations**

3.10 Monitor the suitability and integrity of PPE and replace if necessary

3.11 Consider the welfare of crews at protracted incidents (ambient temperature, inclement weather, strenuous activity, personal hygiene, feeding etc)

3.12 Change crew members around if they are becoming fatigued and consider the need for relief AR2/Water responder crews who may have some considerable attendance time

3.13 Consider lighting well in advance of darkness allowing for potential lengthy recovery time for animals, particularly after anaesthesia

3.14 Ensure a safe system of sharps management for Veterinary needles / syringes

3.15 Always prepare a secondary plan as an animal may manoeuvre itself into a position which renders the initial plan unachievable

**4 Closing Stages**

4.1 On conclusion of the incident formally handover to the owner or Vet when you deem the Fire and Rescue Service responsibility for H&S has ceased. Inform Control.

4.2 Be aware that the risk is particularly high in the recovery stages of an incident when personal guard has dropped.

4.3 Decontaminate equipment and personal kit prior to leaving site. For high levels of contamination use trigene or equivalent disinfectants to remove bacterial or viral hazards

4.4 Ensure correct personal hygiene before eating, drinking and smoking

4.5 Debrief crews and external agencies prior to leaving the rescue site. Consider post incident welfare.

4.6 Advise all crews to contact their doctor and occupational health if they suffer diarrhoea, skin conditions or flu like symptoms following an animal incident as these may indicate a Zoonotic condition.

4.7 Give advice to the owner/occupier if appropriate to avoid reoccurrence of the situation

4.8 Gather the information required for IRS

4.9 In the absence of an RSPCA representative, any concerns regarding the welfare of animals or conditions of animal housing post incident should be referred to the RSPCA Officer who was tasked with the initial call.
5 Relevant References
This document is potentially linked to the following operational procedures documents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Rescues Small</td>
<td>CPT Adopted</td>
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</table>

6 Additional Information

6.1 Approximate Weight of animals

Sheep: 35-95 kg
Pigs: 200-300kg
Cattle: 400-800kg (Bulls may be 1000kg+)
Horses: 150-700kg (Special heavy breeds like Percheron, Shire etc may be 1000kg+)

6.2 Unstable Ground Indicators for Driving and Traversing

a) Lowland heath land terrain may include hazards such as:

b) Valley mire or bog – (deep watery peat of varying depth covered with a layer of matted vegetation such as sphagnum moss, un-driveable all year round.)

c) Wet heath – (Heather vegetation often sloping down to valley mire. Drivability will vary according to the time of year)

d) Riverine woodland – (Woodland growing at stream sides which remains wet all year. Ground is formed of deep silt and organic matter mixed with tree roots and can be extremely hazardous to walk on)

e) Clay holes – (Usually found on slopes where water leaches out from the clay subsoil and forms a highly treacherous trap for vehicles or personnel)
## Incident Review: Animal Rescue Large

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Specific</th>
<th>Generic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Control Measures</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Animal rescue trained personnel.</td>
<td>□ Spans of Control.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Adequate resources.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Risk Assessment.</td>
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### Operational Considerations

#### En Route

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Need for lights and sirens</td>
<td>□ Safe access / egress / RVP / marshalling areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Difficult access planning.</td>
<td>□ Risk Assessment.</td>
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#### On Arrival

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Liaise with caller / owner.</td>
<td>□ Cautious approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ No unnecessary risks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Traffic management.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Establish cordons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Remove people at risk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Plan: intervene or wait?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Safe access routes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Identify safe location for rescued animal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Stabilise vehicles involved</td>
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#### Incident Information

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Time of day / darkness.</td>
<td>□ Confirm what’s happening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Temperature.</td>
<td>□ Dynamic or static?</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Natural cordons</td>
<td>□ Extent of incident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Location of herd (if approp.)</td>
<td>□ Immediate risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Confirm location.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Terrain</td>
<td>□ RVP / marshalling areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Access / egress routes</td>
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#### Resources Information

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<tr>
<td>□ Appoint marshalling officer.</td>
<td>□ On-site knowledge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Ensure vet attendance.</td>
<td>□ MDT ops guidance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Consider off-road vehicle</td>
<td>□ Current resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Identify local lifting eq.</td>
<td>□ Agencies on scene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Agencies required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Future FRS needs.</td>
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## Hazard & Safety Information

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<tr>
<td>Lone working</td>
<td>Consider risk versus benefit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unpredictable animal behaviour</td>
<td>Animals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crush / FF entrapment.</td>
<td>Violence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet. Medicine, needles.</td>
<td>Biohazards.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High tensile fencing.</td>
<td>Collapse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post incident trauma.</td>
<td>Water.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Falls from height.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confined spaces.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electricity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access / egress.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impact (machinery, vehicles).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arduous working conditions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manual handling.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visibility.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ground conditions.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temperature (hot, cold)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noise, vibration.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hazardous materials.</td>
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## Prioritise Objectives

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<tr>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Safe working areas.</td>
<td>Clear, Defined.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cordon control.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rescue.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Damage limitation.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crew welfare.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Security of property.</td>
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## Tactical Plan

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<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Discussed with vet and animal rescue specialists.</td>
<td>Achievable.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viability of animal considered.</td>
<td>Acceptable risk levels.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Address conflicting priorities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allocation of tasks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safe systems of work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identified stages.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Defined control measures.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plan resourced.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complements other agency plans.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plan B identified.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Flexibility.</td>
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## Incident Review: Animal Rescue Large

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<tr>
<td><strong>Communicate</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Relevant, Accurate, Timely</td>
<td>- Tactical mode.</td>
<td>- Confirming of receipt.</td>
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<td>- Tactical plan.</td>
<td>- Risk information.</td>
<td>- Regular updates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Messages.</td>
<td>- Other agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Radio channels.</td>
<td>- Brief senior personnel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Correct medium.</td>
<td>- Confirmation of receipt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Clear briefing</td>
<td>- Other agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sectors (ops and functions)</td>
<td>- Radio channels.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Command support</td>
<td>- Relevant, Accurate, Timely</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Spans of control.</td>
<td>- Tactical plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Clear lines of communication/control.</td>
<td>- Risk information.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Review plan, objectives, progress.</td>
<td>- Messages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Adjust resources / requirements as necessary.</td>
<td>- Other agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mentoring (as appropriate)</td>
<td>- Brief senior personnel.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Communication</td>
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<td>- Control</td>
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<td>- Clear briefing</td>
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<td>- Mentoring (as appropriate)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Incident Conclusion

## Equipment
- Inventory check.
- Clean / decontaminate equipment.

## Hygiene
- Personal cleaning.
- PPE cleaning / bagging.
- Further cleaning on return.

## Debrief
- Hot debrief.
- Other agencies.
- SSRI information

## Records
- Decision logs, contemporaneous notes.
- Paperwork from incident.
- Incident recording system.
- Performance monitoring records.
- Structured debriefing.
- Photographs procedures.
- Safety events.
- Equipment usage recording

## Handover
- Handover to responsible person / authority.
- Incident handover form, if applicable.

## Welfare
- Post incident welfare.
- Critical incident debriefing.
- Occupational health referral.
7 Technical References

7.1 Getting to grips with manual handling (HSE - a short guide) ISBN 0717628280

7.2 Manual Handling Operations regulations 1992 (as amended)

7.3 Common Zoonoses in agriculture (HSE Information sheet - no 2 revised)

7.4 CFOA National Animal Rescue Practitioners Forum

7.5 Animal Rescue in flood and Swiftwater incidents: Slim Ray

7.6 Save Your Horse, A Horse Owners Guide to Large Animal Rescue: Michelle Staples

Document Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Role</th>
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