



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-01

LIVESTOCK ON HIGHWAYS / IN TRAFFIC

Issue Date: 1-1-2020, Revised 4-14-2025



This Procedure Guide supersedes all previous guides in order to comply with the latest Lyon County and state training and operational standards.

Discussion:

Volunteers typically respond to over 100 incidents per year of horses or other livestock on highways or in traffic on secondary roads, comprising about 28% of the total calls. Calls originate from NHP, local law enforcement, Animal Control, fire agencies and citizens on-scene. This Procedure Guide provides protocols and procedures to be followed for all such incidents.

Minimum Responder Qualifications:

IS-100.c, IS-700.b, National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Certificate, and Emergency Horse and Livestock Handling (refreshed within previous 2 years)

1. Safety Policy:

- 1.1 Safety is the overarching priority in all responses. No procedure or protocol provided in this Procedure Guide shall supersede the use of sound judgment as may be appropriate to maximize incident safety.
- 1.2 All responders shall wear appropriate ANSI Class-II or Class-III vests or jackets and appropriate helmets whenever operating on or near any active traffic lanes.
- 1.3 All responders shall carry, and present when requested, LRTC photo identification.
- 1.4 In circumstances where responders cannot reliably communicate by direct voice, portable radios shall be utilized.
- 1.5 All responders shall park in appropriate locations clear of traffic lanes, in positions that avoid blocking the view of approaching motorists of the activities that are taking place, and with wheels locked at critical angles per TIM protocols.
- 1.6 Until Law Enforcement and/or Nevada DOT personnel arrive to provide traffic safety management, all responders shall stage in an appropriate area proximate to the incident but not take action within any highway right-of-way until the aforementioned entities are on-scene and an Incident Action Plan has been agreed to.
- 1.7 All responders shall size-up the scene before taking action. If the line-of-sight of approaching vehicles is limited or obstructed, if lighting conditions are poor, if the livestock

are active and may drift into traffic lanes, or if any other safety issues are apparent, activities shall fall under “work it or leave it” protocols.

1.8 All members shall exercise due caution when returning into active traffic after taking positions on roadway shoulders or medians.

1.9 An LRTC tactical radio shall be provided to law enforcement for control and coordination.

2. Simple Removal Operations:

2.1 Relocating livestock away from roadways and preferably behind fixed barriers can typically alleviate the safety problem. If this task can be performed expeditiously and safely, the livestock should be moved and the area inspected for open gates or damaged fencing.

2.2 Once inspections are completed and the area secured, responders should clear the scene as soon as is practicable.

2.3 In the event of damaged highway or roadway infrastructure, whether or not repaired by responders, the damaged / repaired infrastructure shall be flagged and the transportation department having jurisdiction shall be notified.

3. Difficult or Complex Removal Operations:

3.1 When livestock are not proximate to an escape gate or other available means of egress, when groups of animals are split on opposite sides of active roadways, or when the animals appear to be agitated and could drift into traffic, law enforcement shall establish traffic control before initiating removal efforts.

3.2 Once removals are complete, the area should be inspected for open gates or damaged fencing per the protocols described in sections 2.2 and 2.3.

4. Discouraging Movement:

4.1 There may be circumstances where horses or other livestock may be located a reasonable distance from active traffic lanes and providing high value hay would encourage them to remain in a relatively safe location until appropriate officials can implement traffic management and appropriate actions can be safely undertaken. In these situations, feed may be placed, when prudent to do so, in order to preserve public safety. No actions related to moving these animals for any distance along the roadway shall be undertaken until traffic control is established and/or an appropriate nearby means of egress is created (i.e., NDOT opens a fence or gate.)

5. Public Safety (NHP / S.O. / F.D.) Dispatches:

5.1 Incident dispatchers shall log all relevant data including, but not limited to, requests for law enforcement, Department of Transportation or other agencies having jurisdiction, when such agencies arrive on-scene, the time(s) of any significant orders by agencies directing

operations, “Code-4” when the incident is secured, and when all responders have taken up and left the scene.

- 5.2 When a response is requested by a public agency, the responding team’s Incident Dispatcher shall contact the requesting agency at the end of the operation to provide a “Code-4” status report (or an “unable to complete” mission report,) and to advise that all responders have cleared the incident.

NHP: 775-687-0400

CCSO: 775-887-2677

LCSO: 775-463-6620

SCSO: 775-847-0950

WCSO: 775-785-9276

6. Damaged Highway / Roadway Infrastructure:

6.1 In the event that during follow-up inspections damaged infrastructure is discovered (e.g., cut or broken fencing, knocked down gates, etc.) and when a representative of the agency having jurisdiction over the highway or roadway is not in attendance, temporary repairs should be made as may be practicable, with pink flagging ribbon conspicuously applied at the location of the repair, "CAUTION" ribbon hung where hazards exist, and a report being made to the agency having jurisdiction.

7. Citizens at the Scene:

7.1 Citizens may be in attendance at some scenes. Efforts should be made to limit their involvement in livestock removal activities. If citizens disrupt operations or present safety hazards, appropriate law enforcement should be called and operations stopped until law enforcement arrives and the operation can be resumed safely.

8. Other Types of Highway / Roadway Incidents:

8.1 In the event an incident involves a trapped horse, Procedure Guide 20-02 shall apply.

8.2 In the event an incident involves a transportation accident involving livestock, Procedure Guide 20-03 shall apply.

NOTE: All personnel should review *Highway Incident Safety*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5omF38ETBI>