



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-43

CONFINED SPACE ANIMAL RESCUES

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

Discussion:

The term, “Confined Space” has broad implications. In field practice, large animals can become cast in relatively small holes, ditches, trenches, gaps between boulders, etc., and due to the positions in which they landed, are unable to self-extricate. This Procedure Guide addresses rescues where it is appropriate for responders to facilitate the extrication of horses and livestock from such entrapments that don’t involve mud, water or other hazards.

Responder Qualifications:

IS-100.c, IS-700.b, National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Certificate, TLAR Emergency Horse Handling Module, TLAR Technical Large Animal Rescue Operational Level

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 helmets at all times, and wear ANSI Class-II or Class-III vests or jackets whenever operating on or near any active traffic lanes.
- 1.3 A qualified Safety Officer shall be designated for all technical rescue responses.

2 Response Matrix:

2.1 Minimum responses to technical large animal rescue incidents shall include:

- Closest available TLAR Rescue Unit
- Rescue-2 (heavy rescue)
- Transport trailer with loading panels
- Panel trailer (if required to contain the animal after extrication.)
- Special Operations-1 (if overhead lifting is contemplated)

2.2 Incident Support Unit-1 and/or an additional TLAR Rescue Unit may respond if the need for additional equipment is anticipated.

3 Incident Organization / Chain of Command:

3.1 Each response shall have an Incident Commander (IC) who will direct the activities being undertaken.

4 Incident Assessment:

4.1 Upon arrival a complete and comprehensive size-up shall be undertaken, risks and probable rescue activities shall be determined, and information shall be relayed to incoming units.

5 Unified Command:

5.1 When public safety or facility personnel are present, operations should be conducted with the lead personnel from all stakeholder entities functioning by agreement in an ICS Unified Command structure.

5.2 The Commander of Technical Large Animal Rescue operations may be part of the Unified Command structure or be designated as Technical Rescue Group Supervisor in a module subordinate to Incident Command, as incident conditions may warrant.

6 Incident Briefing / Incident Action Plan:

6.1 Subsequent to securing the scene and before initiating definitive technical operations, an Incident briefing shall be conducted including all responders present.

6.2 The Incident Briefing shall include at minimum:

6.2.1 The Incident Safety Plan, including identifying the Incident Safety Officer

6.2.2 Identified hazards and risks (compliance with NRS 41.519)

6.2.3 The Incident Action Plan (IAP)

6.2.4 Functional assignments and designation of Functional Unit Leads

6.2.5 Success measurements, including benchmarks warranting a change in the IAP

6.3 All members present shall indicate that they understand the IAP and are capable of Safely and effectively carrying out their assignments

6.4 All material changes to the IAP shall be conveyed to all responders before changes take place.

7 General Safety Orders:

7.1 If an incident appears to involve an OSHA "Confined Space," appropriately qualified public safety personnel shall be requested before actions commence.

7.2 Ground pads and slip sheets shall be deployed to protect rescuers

- 7.3 All personnel working in hazardous positions shall wear safety harnesses with tag lines.
- 7.4 All activities requiring rope rescue shall be in accordance with Rope Rescue Practices.

8 Critical Response Practices:

- 8.1 Personnel permitted to be near the entrapment shall be limited to those actually required for rescue activities.
- 8.2 Care must be taken to avoid side-wall collapse and dropping of materials into the space.
- 8.3 Rescuers shall not descend into any confined space, but rather use extension tools.
- 8.4 Recovery straps shall be of the widest material practical for incident circumstances.
- 8.5 Head (eye) protection for the animal should be applied whenever practicable.
- 8.6 Steps shall be taken to prevent the animal from inadvertently slipping back into space.
(Note: When animals are sedated prior to extrication, controlling their movements can be difficult during the post-sedation interval. In such instances the animal should be transported some distance from the confined space or any other hazards.)

9 Post-incident Issues:

- 9.1 Extricated horses must be checked for injuries.
- 9.2 In the event an animal extricated during a technical large animal rescue requires follow-up care, appropriate notifications shall be made as follows:
 - 9.2.1 If a Virginia Range horse, the Range Manager
 - 9.2.2 If domestic livestock where the owner is known or can be identified, the owner
 - 9.2.3 If domestic livestock where the owner is not known or cannot be identified, a Brand Inspector and the Animal Control agency having jurisdiction

10 Interference by Bystanders:

- 10.1 Interference by bystanders can create distractions that can impact the safety and performance of field operations. Furthermore, allowing bystanders to interfere can create liability issues. If bystanders encroach into the operational area and refuse to step back or they otherwise create distractions, law enforcement should be called to remove them before continuing operations.