



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS
PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-61
LIVESTOCK EVACUATION RESPONSES
Issue Date: 1-13-2020, Rev. 3-25-2025



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

Discussion:

Requests to assist with evacuations may come from owners, stakeholders, local agencies, City or County Emergency Managers, Animal Control Agencies, tribes, local Fire Services, Search and Rescue officials, or the Division of Emergency Management. While the operational procedures may vary from one jurisdiction to another, responders should adhere to NIMS and ICS protocols to the greatest extent practicable.

Responder Qualifications:

IS-10.a, IS-11.a IS-100.c, IS-111.a, IS-700.b, TLAR Emergency Horse and Livestock Handling Module

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, wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as may be appropriate for the incident type, 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 evacuation responses.
- 1.4 All responding teams shall have radio communications with field supervisors and other units.

2 Response Matrix:

- 2.1 For stakeholder requests (e.g., minor flooding where a small number of animals require removal) the number of transport trailers shall be based on perceived needs, plus one additional trailer.

2.2 For agency requests to incidents of a significant nature (wide area flooding, wildfires, etc.) the following minimum matrix shall apply:

- 1 strike team of 5 credentialed stock type trailers
- Incident Support Unit-1
- Panel Trailer
- A Type-3 or Type-6 rescue / brush unit
- Other resources as may be warranted

3 Incident Organization / Chain of Command:

3.1 Except for minor incidents when responders are in “stand alone” status, responders shall assemble and function as an ICS Strike Team, or Task Force for mixed type units.

3.2 Incident Commanders may request a ranking member to assume the position of Animal Rescue Group Supervisor to direct the strike team / task force and other appropriate large animal responders.

3.3 Incident Commanders may request a ranking member to serve as Liaison Officer to maintain connectivity between the Animal Rescue Group and Incident Command.

3.4 In incidents where the only activities involve relocating livestock, officials having authority may delegate Incident Command to the ranking member of the Animal Rescue Group.

4 Deployment and Staging:

4.1 Resources shall deploy when requested and report to a designated Staging Area unless redirected while enroute.

4.2 When practical, the team should assemble as one Strike Team or Task Force for deployment before mobilizing. Units coming from disparate locations and unable to rendezvous should meet up with and join the Strike Team or Task Force at the Staging Area.

4.3 All units shall check-in at the Staging Area and be accounted for.

4.4 Units shall not self-deploy to specific locations within the operational area, but rather remain ready at the Staging Area for mission assignments as may be ordered.

5 Incident Assessment:

5.1 Upon arrival at a removal location, a complete and comprehensive size-up shall be undertaken, risks and probable loading activities shall be determined, and an Incident Action Plan shall be created that identifies risks, best practices for containing and loading the animals, incident security and related issues.

6 Incident Safety:

- 6.1 During fire and moving water flood evacuations, a qualified Lookout shall be designated to monitor conditions during all removal activities.
- 6.2 A Type-3 or Type-6 rescue/brush unit shall operate as Lookout and provide evacuation protection as may be warranted.
- 6.3 Risk-benefit analyses shall be conducted using the “Work it or Leave it” decision making model.
- 6.4 During flood evacuations responders shall have available, at minimum, US Coast Guard approved life vests that shall be worn any time water is at least one foot deep or when ground conditions cannot be observed through the water.
- 6.5 During wildfire evacuations responders shall have available, at minimum, approved wildland brush jackets, wildland helmets, goggles and appropriate clothing.
- 6.6 During extended operations, the Animal Rescue Group Safety Officer shall arrange rehab for responders exposed to excessive heat, cold or fatigue, utilizing the ISU or other appropriate rehab opportunities.

7 Incident Briefing / Incident Action Plan:

- 7.1 As a general policy, before evacuation activities commence an Incident briefing shall be conducted involving all responders present.
- 7.2 The Incident Briefing shall include at minimum:
 - 7.2.1 The Incident Safety Plan, including identifying the Incident Safety Officer.
 - 7.2.2 Identified hazards and risks (compliance with NRS 41.519).
 - 7.2.3 The Incident Action Plan (IAP).
 - 7.2.4 Functional assignments and designation of Functional Unit Leads.
 - 7.2.5 Security and confidentiality issues.
 - 7.2.6 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 (Red/Yellow/Green).
- 6.4 All material changes to the IAP shall be conveyed to all responders before changes take place.

Communications and Accountability Protocols

- 8.1 Default radio channels shall be Olinghouse Repeater for travel, and GMRS-4 for tactical.
- 8.2 Travel channels may change based on incident locations, so responders must be alert for channel change instructions
- 8.3 SAR Local may be used for SAR to LRTC communications when authorized by SAR
- 8.4 CalTopo shall be used wherever practicable to track movements real-time of resources in the field.

8 Relocation of Animals:

- 8.1 Destination directives of those persons having authority shall be followed.
- 8.2 Whenever practicable, orange identification duct tape shall be conspicuously applied at the locations where all animals known to be present have been removed, with the types and numbers of animals removed and their destination recorded on the duct tape with a black broad tipped marker.
- 8.3 Appropriate documentation as to the location from which the animals were removed, the species, count and descriptions of the animals, and other pertinent information shall accompany the animals to the designated shelter location on appropriate forms.
- 8.4 When dropping off animals at designated shelter locations, responders shall determine that the persons receiving the animals are aware of their arrival, that the facilities can safely contain the animals and that resources are available to maintain the animals.

9 Spontaneous Volunteers:

- 10.1 Spontaneous volunteers often arrive at staging areas. Some volunteers may have resource capabilities that would be advantageous to evacuation operations.
- 10.2 Spontaneous volunteers who appear credible and who on inspection have safe and reliable vehicles and/or equipment, may be identified and logged onto the incident.
- 10.3 Spontaneous volunteers should be primarily utilized for support functions such as relaying supplies or assisting at intake facilities.
- 10.4 Qualified spontaneous volunteers may be used as relay transporters, with credentialed responders removing animals from "hot zones," and with the spontaneous volunteers relaying the animals from a safe transfer point to a distant sheltering location, thus allowing credentialed responders to become available for additional assignments much sooner.

10 Interference by Owners or Bystanders:

- 11.1 Emotional citizens can impact operational safety. In the event owners or bystanders impact the safety and efficiency of removal operations, the units shall withdraw and request another assignment.

11 Demobilization:

- 12.1 All units that have been registered as operating at an incident scene shall remain at the scene or assigned staging area until demobilized.
- 12.2 Any responder or unit that needs to leave the incident prior to formal demobilization shall report such needs to the Staging Area Manager and be formally detached from the incident.
- 12.3 All units demobilizing shall conduct safety inspections of their vehicles and gear prior to departing.

All responders should be familiar with:

- Developing an Effective Large Animal Evacuation Program
<http://whmentors.org/evac/evac01.html>
- Flood Responses
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5zAKwuoeMY>
- Wildfire Evacuations Involving Livestock
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX8uSIP8-m0>
- Safe Emergency Horse Loading
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rjhMYLStAY&t=125s>