



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS
PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-96
BIOSECURITY AND DECONTAMINATION

Issue Date: 1-18-2020



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

Discussion:

Rescue equipment, personal clothing and transport trailers can come in contact with blood, urine, feces, saliva and other animal fluids. It is critical that all contaminated equipment, materials and surfaces be properly decontaminated to prevent the unintended spread of disease. In some instances, the animals themselves require decontamination. In other instances, animal symptoms may suggest infection by a reportable disease.

1 Safety Policy:

- 1.1 Safety is the overarching priority in all responses. No procedure or protocol provided in any Procedure Guide shall supersede the use of sound judgment as may be appropriate to maximize incident safety.
- 1.2 Biosecurity, the actions taken to prevent the spread of communicable disease, is a critical safety policy element.

2 Responsibilities:

- 2.1 All equipment that is contaminated or potentially contaminated during use shall be cleaned or decontaminated as appropriate before being returned to service.
- 2.2 Hard surface equipment (such as Rescue Glides and Slip Sheets) may be cleaned by washing and scrubbing.
- 2.3 "Soft" equipment such as straps, webbing and ropes shall be soaked in water containing antibiotic soap, then rinsed and dried.
 - 2.3.1 Minor spots may be spot treated with Lysol and water.
 - 2.3.2 Spare equipment from the Training Division shall be used if needed before on-line equipment has been decontaminated and returned to service.
- 2.4 Transport trailers shall be swept clean and surfaces treated with Lysol or Clorox as may be appropriate.
- 2.5 Personal clothing that has been contaminated should not be worn around other livestock until thoroughly cleaned.

2.6 Volunteers contacting potentially diseased livestock shall thoroughly wash exposed skin surfaces.

3 Isolation:

3.1 Equines that exhibit symptoms of contagious diseases such as equine flu, equine herpes virus, infectious anemia virus, "pigeon fever," streptococcus (strangles) or rabies shall be kept isolated until a qualified veterinarian or Brand Inspector can assess the likelihood of a transmittable disease and either authorize the movement of the animal or provide direction for further veterinary diagnosis

4 Notifiable Diseases:

3.1 Incidents involving animals that exhibit symptoms of notifiable diseases shall be immediately referred to the Range Manager.

3.2 Notifiable diseases that could be found in Northern Nevada include various forms of encephalomyelitis, equine herpes, rabies, equine infectious anemia, and West Nile virus.

3.3 Symptoms that could be suggestive of notifiable diseases include severe respiratory conditions, encephalitic conditions (loss of coordination, confusion,) unusual severe lumps, strong, foul odors, and maggots feeding on living tissue.

5 Decontamination of Animals:

5.1 There are occasional occurrences when animals have been exposed to chemical or biological contaminants. Examples of chemical contaminants would include exposure to chemicals due to flooding or transportation accidents. Examples of biological contaminants would include flooding and horses that fall into septic tanks or the horse that fell into the sewage treatment plant sludge pond. Biological or chemical contaminants could include horses that have become bogged and exposed to microbes or heavy metals.

5.2 Contaminated animals should be confined as may be practicable and decontaminated before release or transport.

5.2.1 In instances of transportation accidents or floods, animals may have to be relocated to an appropriate location for decontamination.

5.3 Decontamination should take place in a location where runoff from the decontamination operation will not create environmental or biosecurity issues.

5.3.1 When dealing with suspected chemical exposures or apparent biohazards, operations shall be conducted under the supervision or direction of a qualified expert.

5.4 All persons engaged in decontamination of animals shall wear personal protective equipment as may be appropriate for the assignment being undertaken.

5.5 All equipment (e.g., panels, tarps, clothing, etc.) used in the decontamination operation shall be properly cleaned before removal from the decontamination site.

5.5.1 Whenever a decontamination expert is present, all directives shall be complied with prior to removing equipment used and demobilization.

6 Responder Decontamination:

- 6.1 Responders who have or may have been exposed to chemical or biological hazards should be decontaminated. Such exposures could include working in flood waters. These hazards should not be spread to vehicles, other members or uninvolved animals.
- 6.2 Decontamination could be as simple as washing exposed skin and clothing with an appropriate disinfectant, or as complex as a complete rinse-down in a decontamination pool.
 - 6.2.1 The decontamination pool is stored in Compartment 3 in Rescue-2. If used, procedures for disposing of contained contaminated run-off should fall under the direction of an appropriate expert, if present, or the use of basic sound judgment if a qualified individual is not available.
- 6.3 Any time a member visits a location where a biohazard could exist such as strangles or pigeon fever, or travels from one distinctive range area to another, or to a private facility, application of disinfection to shoes and hands shall be warranted.
- 6.4 Decontamination could be as simple as rinsing off mud or debris from members and tools. Still, consideration is warranted so as not to allow runoff into sensitive areas.

7 Responder / Volunteer Responsibilities:

- 7.1 Responding volunteers are not expected act as veterinarians or diagnosticians. They should be alert to conditions that could potentially warrant biosecurity measures and report objective observations to qualified persons who have the knowledge and training to determine if an individual animal is likely symptomatic of a notifiable disease and should remain isolated until formally examined.
- 7.2 Avoidable movement of any animal that appears to be a potential biosecurity risk shall not be undertaken until a determination by a veterinary professional or Brand Inspector has been made that it is safe to do so.
- 7.3 Contact with any animal that appears to be a potential biosecurity risk shall be to the minimum extent necessary until a determination by a veterinary professional or Brand Inspector has been made that it is safe to do so.
- 7.4 Reports shall be “first hand.” Opinions of untrained third parties may cause a condition in the field to be investigated by volunteers, but formal reports to be used as determinations as to potential biosecurity risks shall be based on the objective observations by the actual volunteers transmitting the report.
- 7.5 Relevant clear images and videos can often aid in determining the probability of a biosecurity condition.
- 7.6 In all circumstances where equines (or other livestock) present with unusual and possibly disturbing medical conditions, volunteers shall exercise due caution until the circumstances can be properly evaluated by a competent professional.