



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 25-01

BIPOD / TRIPOD OPERATIONS

Issue Date: 4-26-25



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

Discussion:

Some technical rescues may require the utilization of an overhead lifting device. Appropriate mobile devices such as excavators or large front-end loaders are ideal, but at times they may either not be available or cannot reach the incident location. In such circumstances the construction of a bipod or tripod may be required.

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.
- 1.4 In circumstances where responders cannot reliably communicate by direct voice, portable radios shall be utilized.

2 Response Matrix:

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

- Closest available TLAR Rescue Unit
- Rescue-2 (heavy rescue)
- Special Operations-1
- Panel Trailer-1 (if containment is anticipated)
- Special Operations-1 (if bipod / tripod is anticipated)
- Incident Support Unit-1 (if extended operations are 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 strategies 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

7 General Safety Orders:

7.1 All activities on or alongside roadways and highways shall be in accordance with TIM protocols.

7.2 All activities involving confined spaces shall be in accordance with Confined Space Practices.

7.3 All activities involving rope rescue shall be in accordance with Rope Rescue Practices.

7.4 All rigging, assembly points and anchors shall be inspected twice before applying any load.

7.5 All persons proximate to any lifting operation shall wear appropriate helmets and personal protective equipment.

8 Assembly and Safety Checks

- 8.1 All connecting pins shall be checked to ensure that the assembly pins and lynch pins are properly secured
- 8.2 All base plates shall be inspected to ensure that anchor stakes are properly driven (where applicable)
- 8.3 All rope anchors shall be inspected for suitability
- 8.4 All pulleys and carabiners shall be inspected to ensure proper alignment and locked gates
- 8.5 The Z-rig haul system shall be inspected to ensure proper layout and function under a load
- 8.6 A proper progress capture device shall be installed on the system (i.e., Petzl I'D)
- 8.7 The system shall be tested for function prior to being placed under a load

9 Post-incident Issues:

- 9.1 In the event an animal extricated during a technical large animal rescue requires follow-up care, appropriate notifications shall be made as follows:
 - 9.1.1 If a Virginia Range horse, the Range Manager
 - 9.1.2 If domestic livestock where the owner is known or can be identified, the owner
 - 9.1.3 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.

11 Documentation:

- 11.1 When an incident involves a Virginia Range horse, the Range Manager shall be notified as to the details of the technical rescue, the outcome and any post-rescue needs.
- 11.2 Responders authorized to make entries into WHIMS should update the data base as may be appropriate.