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Fire and Rescue Service Operational Guidance

GRAs
generic risk assessments

GRA 2.5
Large animal rescues

Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescues

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The Generic Risk Assessments in this series only apply to England.

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SECTION 1

Generic risk assessment 2.5 Large animal rescues

Scope

This Generic Risk Assessment (GRA) examines the hazards, risks and control measures relating to Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) personnel, the personnel of other agencies and members of the public when dealing with incidents involving the rescue of large animals.

Depending on the nature and scale of the operational incident a variety of significant hazards may be present. A FRS may therefore need to consider the contents of other specific GRAs in this series.

This GRA should therefore be considered in conjunction with other relevant GRAs, which include:

GRA 2.1 Rescues – From Confined spaces: trenches/pits

GRA 2.2 Rescues – From ice and unstable ground

GRA 4.1 Incidents involving transport systems – Road

GRA 5.1 Generic hazards – Working at heights

GRA 5.4 Generic hazards – Biological hazards

Definition

Whilst there is no specific definition of a 'large animal', any animal that cannot be easily lifted and handled by two persons and removed to a place of safety should be deemed to be a large animal.

As with all GRAs this assessment provides a starting point for FRS to conduct their own assessments and produce their own Safe Systems of Work (which include Standard Operating Procedures, training programmes, provision of equipment, levels of response etc.) within the context of local conditions and existing organisational arrangements.

Significant hazards and risks

General

There is currently no specific definition of a 'large animal' but consideration should be given to manual handling regulations and specific risks involving particular species.

Animal rescues by their very nature often occur in difficult locations and conditions. Attempting the rescue of large animals is inherently hazardous, and is in an area where FRS experience may be limited. The response to incidents involving large animals provided by FRS's could be described as having three sequential levels:-

(1) Awareness to make personnel who may be expected to take part or to be involved in the rescue of large animals as part of their service role, aware of the hazards associated with these types of incidents.

(2) Initial Operational Response
First attendance crews, with knowledge, experience, training, training in Safe Systems of Work (SSoW), knowledge of safe working practices and procedures in these conditions.

(3) Specialist Crews
Specially trained crews with appropriate knowledge and experience, and range of specialist equipment to facilitate more complex rescue operations.

The operational imperative

On the arrival of crews, there will be an expectation of action. Crews should be aware of the pressure to act, particularly when large crowds are at the scene of a serious incident.

The uncontrolled situation

When arriving at an operational incident, the Incident Commander will face an uncontrolled situation with several hazards and risks, incomplete information and an expectation to act.

Inappropriate and/or insufficient resources to provide safe systems of work for the FRS task

There is a societal expectation that a firefighting team will arrive and achieve a satisfactory outcome. Evidence from accident investigations has shown that firefighters will attempt tasks regardless of the resources available to them risking death or serious injury.

Limited experience

A FRS may have limited experience of this type of incident. A particular hazard is the infrequency of rescues performed in these conditions and the societal/moral pressure on FRS personnel to save life regardless of resources, training and experience.

Accessing the rescue site

Traversing difficult terrain to access and egress the incident present hazards that include;

- uneven ground
- quarries and cliffs
- flooded areas – tidal and non tidal watercourses
- wells, holes, ditches, pits and hedgerows

- fences: timber and electrical
- poor light levels
- disturbed/unpredictable livestock behaviour.

Access may be difficult due to remoteness, poor terrain with inherent trip hazards, low light levels and extreme weather conditions all of which may have an adverse affect on the effectiveness of the operation. Natural trip hazards and obstacles such as ditches, rabbit burrows, badger sets, hedgerows, timber and electrical fences may have to be negotiated whilst carrying items of rescue equipment. Trips and falls in these situations can lead to significant musculoskeletal injuries as well as cuts and abrasions etc.

Surrounding water – standing and flowing water which might easily have been walked through at the start of the incident may not be passable at the conclusion of the incident due to flooding caused by local and remote rainfall or the area being subject to tidal flow. If prolonged periods are spent in water there may be a risk of hypothermia or in extreme cases drowning. Constant monitoring of the weather, tidal and working conditions will need to be considered.

Lighting levels – will be of a primary concern if accessing the site, carrying out the rescue or returning from the site is carried out during the hours of darkness.

Disturbing other live stock – some cattle and livestock are naturally inquisitive and may move towards the scene of activity. Sudden disturbance of livestock could start a local stampede that may drive them towards the rescue site and rescuers.

Working at the scene of the rescue

UNSTABLE SURFACES

Working near old mine workings and on other unstable surfaces such as mud, slurry and ice, have their own inherent hazards. These can result in falls by those attending the incident and the potential to enter the subsurface liquids.

CONFINED SPACES

These may be confined spaces as defined by the *Confined Space Regulations 1997*, as well being confined (restricted) working areas but not falling under the Regulations.

“Confined space” working may present problems of restricted access and the potential for rapid fatigue and claustrophobia.

ANIMAL RELATED DISEASES

Working in very close proximity to animals particularly in restricted areas may present the risk of contracting zoonoses[1] (animal related infectious diseases) and other viral infections. Severe allergic reactions may also be triggered by airborne particles containing animal fur, skin (dandruff) or saliva. It should be remembered that some of this infectious contaminant can be carried on personal protective equipment clothing which may aid cross infection.

[1] http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/health.htm#_zoonoses

NOTE
Pregnant women who come into close contact with sheep during lambing may place their own and unborn child's health at serious risk from infection which could lead to enzootic abortion.

UNSTABLE STRUCTURES

Consideration may need to be given to unstable buildings, structures or agricultural machinery that has the potential to collapse causing crush (possibly fatal) injuries.

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

A wide range of chemical and biological hazardous substances may be present at the rescue site, for example – veterinary medicines, asbestos, electricity, fuel oils, gases, poisons and agro chemicals and slurry, each having their own inherent risks.

WORKING AT HEIGHT

Some rescues may involve working at height (which includes working at the top of a trench or ravine etc) and may present the risk of injuries associated with falls.

WORKING ON OR NEAR WATER

When dealing with incidents involving water or near water the associated risks include drowning, hypothermia and the potential to contract infectious diseases such as leptospirosis (Weil's disease) etc.

INJURED, FRIGHTENED OR DISTRESSED ANIMALS

Animals that are distressed or hurt may behave uncharacteristically, particularly when stimulated or during release. Fight, flight and herding instincts may be observed during a rescue. Enhanced aggression may be observed during the breeding season.

Consideration should be given to the risks associated with being kicked, crushed, gored, bitten or being trampled on by the animal.

Where chemical sedation of the animal is not be readily available, consideration should be given to calming the animal in other ways, particularly horses by covering their eyes which will help to limit any visual stimuli. Feeding may also help to calm the animal. Where this is being considered a vet should be consulted.

The operational activities and the level of distress of the animal being rescued may influence the behaviour of other animals in the vicinity. Risk assessments should include the potential for:

- crowding from the remaining herd
- unsecured animals reacting to the rescue
- protective behaviour
- male species (protecting their domain etc.) e.g. bulls, boars, rams, stags, stallions
- females protecting young.

IMPROVISED WORKING/EQUIPMENT

The use of non FRS items of equipment may be offered for use. Such equipment will have to be carefully considered and assessed prior to it being used. Assurance of the operator's competence will also need to be established.

Specific equipment may be available from the animal's owner or veterinary adviser who may be in attendance.

FRSs may also have entered into a contract to enable specialist equipment to be provided when requested.

Whatever method of rescue is used, personnel will need to be aware that in the course of rescuing large animals, pulling on their necks may cause them permanent, serious damage.

Post incident hazards

Relaxation of personal discipline and hazard awareness whilst still on site and closing down incident.

Returning equipment to appliances over uneven ground, fences and walls etc.

Inadequate on site vehicle/appliance decontamination leading to mud being deposited on to public highway and potentially causing a road traffic collision.

Inadequate on site decontamination of personnel, resulting in prolonged exposure to contaminants and contamination of appliance crew cab, leading to increased potential to contract associated diseases.

Poor control of point of egress on to public highway permitting other livestock to escape and cause an road traffic collision.

Key control measures

The most effective risk control measure in preventing harm is, if practicable, to avoid committing FRS personnel into the hazard area in the first instance. When working in the hazard area cannot be avoided, consideration must be given to suitable control measures that may include:

Pre-planning

Preplanning is key to enhancing the safety of fire fighters and others likely to be affected by FRS operations. Every FRS Integrated Risk Management Plan should set standards and identify the resources required to ensure safe systems of work are maintained.

Every FRS should assess the hazards and risks in their area relating to this generic risk assessment and site-specific plans should be considered for locations where these are significant. This assessment should include other FRS' areas where "cross border" arrangements make this appropriate.

Such contingency plans should include:

- levels of response
- reference to relevant Standard Operating Procedures
- tactical considerations, including rendezvous points, appliance marshalling areas and access points.

Preplanning is underpinned by information gathering, much of which will be gained through inspections or visits by FRS staff – for example, those covered by section 7(2)d of the *Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004*.

Information should be gathered and used to review safe systems of work, etc utilising sources from both within and outside of the FRS including:

- incident de-briefs
- health and safety events
- local authorities
- local and national resilience forum
- Animal Rescue Forum
- British Horse Society
- World Horse Welfare
- Environment Agency
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Involving others in preplanning is also an effective way to build good working relations with partner agencies and other interested parties, such as site owners and animal rescue agencies that may include (RSPCA), Natural England and welfare societies.

FRSs should ensure systems are in place to record and regularly review risk information and to make sure that new risks are identified and recorded as soon as practicable.

FRSs must ensure that the information gathered is treated as confidential, unless disclosure is made in the course of duty or is required for legal reasons.

The FRS should consider the benefits of using consistent systems and formats to record information from all sources. Consideration should also be given to how timely access will be provided to information to support operational decision-making. Mobile data terminal systems may be utilised to support this function.

Information needs and the capacity of FRS staff to assimilate information will vary in proportion to the nature and size of incident and what stage the operational response has reached, so arrangements need to be flexible and may be based on more than one system.

FRSs should ensure that the pre- determined operational response to such incidents will support the implementation of safe systems of work. Whilst it may not be practicable to consider site specific locations, a generic view should be taken from the FRSs experience and local knowledge to develop their pre-determined attendance for such incidents.

Pre-determined response

FRSs should ensure that the operational response to an incident will be sufficient to allow relevant safe systems of work to be implemented. A task analysis of the various scenarios at this type of incident will enable an FRS to plan an effective response and standard operating procedures. This along with information received regarding the incident type and any known site specific information will provide a risk based assessment of the pre-determined response. As part of the pre-planning process the pre-determined response may also include the need for specialist vehicles equipment, techniques and assistance from other agencies.

Training

When formulating a training strategy the FRS should consider the following points:

- FRSs must ensure their personnel are adequately trained to deal with hazards and risks associated with large animal rescues.
- The level and nature of training undertaken should be shaped by informed assessment of operational and individual needs in accordance with the FRS guidance on the integrated personal development system, national occupational standards and any internal training plan.
- Training and development should follow the principles set out in national guidance documents. Training and development programmes should generally be structured so that they move from simple to more complex tasks and from lower to higher levels of risk. This training should also include the need to consider the animal's welfare whilst being rescued.
- Training and development will typically need to include standard operational procedures as well as ensuring knowledge and understanding of equipment and the associated skills that will be required to use it.
- Training and development programmes need to consider the need for appropriate levels of assessment and provide for continuous professional development to ensure maintenance of skills and to update personnel whenever there are changes to procedure, equipment etc.

Training outcomes should be evaluated to ensure that the training provided is effective, current and that it meets defined operational needs as determined by the FRS Integrated Risk Management Plan.

- Any FRS personnel who are expected to take part in large animal rescues, including the supervision of personnel should be competent in the equipment and techniques that they are likely to utilise. Realistic training events aimed to ensure operational crews maintain a satisfactory knowledge of the hazards, safe systems of work and operational procedures associated with the rescue of large animals should be periodically carried out.

Training for such events will need to include;

- the foreseeable hazards as well as the associated risks
- use of rescue equipment
- manual handling techniques, particularly in relation to animals
- rescue techniques.

Command and control

The Incident Commander should follow the principles of the current National Incident Command System. Before committing personnel into any hazard area and selecting and informing personnel of the safe system of work to be implemented the Incident Commander must take account of all factors known at the time.

Early consultation, where practicable, with an animal rescue specialist should be considered.

The Incident Commander must choose the most appropriate safe system of work based on pre-planning by their FRS and the pre-determined attendance for this type of incident. In doing so they shall take account of the:

GRA 2.1 Rescues – from confined spaces: trenches/pits
GRA 2.2 Rescues – from ice and unstable ground
GRA 4.1 Incidents involving transport systems – Road
GRA 5.1 Generic hazards – Working at heights
GRA 5.4 Generic hazards – Biological hazards

A thorough safety brief prior to deployment of personnel within the hazard zone must be carried out.

In addition to guidance provided by the National Incident Command System the following control measures are particularly pertinent to large animal rescues:

- the number of personnel and equipment permitted to work around the animal to be rescued should be kept to the minimum required to achieve the task
- brief and deploy Safety Officers to look out for the safety of crew
- utilise best access and egress balanced against urgency of the situation and safest point of egress
- consideration of all resources that may require to be transported by foot.

Incident Commanders should identify and communicate the extent of the area in which it is considered safe to work, utilising natural boundaries, ditches and fences etc.

Safety Officer(s)

The provision of a Safety Officer should always be considered and their early appointment will help ensure that risks are either eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level.

A safety decision-making model may be used to brief Safety Officers regarding the nature of the incident, the allocated task and prevailing hazards and risks. The Incident Commander should confirm that the Safety Officer understands:

- their role and area of responsibility
- allocated tasks
- lines of communication.

Those undertaking the Safety Officer role should:

- be competent to perform the role
- ensure personnel are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment
- monitor the physical condition of personnel and/or general or specific safety conditions at the incident, in accordance with their brief
- take any corrective action required to ensure safety of personnel and others who may be affected by the rescue activities
- update the Incident Commander or Senior Safety Officer regarding any change in circumstances and
- not be engaged in any other aspect of operations, unless this is required to deal with a risk critical situation
- having a knowledge of the rescue techniques that are likely to be deployed in relation to animals will be an advantage.

A Safety Officer can be any role, but the complexity of the task, size of the incident and scope of responsibility should be considered by the Incident Commander when determining the supervisory level required.

Safety Officers should wear nationally recognised identification to indicate they are undertaking the Safety Officer role.

The FRS should ensure that risk assessments, training and other measures (such as aide-memoires) are in place and available to support those staff liable to undertake this role.

Personal protective equipment

The FRS must ensure that any personal protective equipment provided is fit for purpose appropriate for the incident that it will be used at, as well as conforming to all required safety standards. When choosing suitable protective garments, the standard of clothing worn beneath the specialist personal protective equipment should also be taken into account. Consideration should also be given to the selection of suitable sizes.

Personal protective equipment should also take account of the need for rescuers to be visible against the operational background including night working and for the Incident Commander and other managerial and functional roles (defined in the national incident command system) to be distinguishable.

All personnel must use appropriate levels of service provided personal protective equipment and respiratory protective equipment as determined by the safe system of work.

Consideration should be given to the suitable cleaning of any personal protective equipment or other equipment that may have been contaminated with fur, skin (dandruff) or saliva etc.

External professional assistance

Where animal sedation or advice is required, the availability and attendance of a suitably trained large animal practitioner/vet may prove beneficial. The animal owner may however opt to use their own vet.

Releasing of animals and release area

All personnel should be mindful that animals can be stimulated out of a sedated state immediately with little or no warning signs.

Consultation with the RSPCA or vet to establish the suitableness of releasing the animal should also be considered.

Where practicable the release of any animal should be controlled until a safe area has been made available.

Consideration of a safe area for the animal to be released into may need to include the released animals ‘flight’ zone for planned or unplanned releases from its place of rescue. This flight zone should be a safe (natural or created) pathway to encourage the animal towards the release area.

Identification and dissemination (at the rescue scene) of suitable egress points for FRSs personnel may also be necessary.

Technical references	
1	Work at Height Regulations 2005(WAH Regulations) SI2005/735
2	Manual Handling Regulations 1992 (as amended)
3	Fire Service Manual Volume 2, Fire Service Operations, Safe Working Near, on or in Water
4	Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) SI1998/2306 and ACoP Safe use of work equipment (HSE L 22)
5	Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) SI 1998/2307 and ACoP and Guidance and Safe Use of Lifting Equipment1998 (HSE L25)
6	Fire and Rescue Service Manual Volume 2 Fire Service Operations, Safe Work at Height, 2006
7	The Chief Fire Officer's Association, Guidance for the Fire and Rescue
8	Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (PPE) SI 1992/2966 and amendments. Guidance document (HSE L22) Personal Protective Equipment at work 1992
9	Safer Horse Rescues – emergency services protocol – for dealing with incidents involving equines

SECTION 2

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
1	Traversing difficult terrain to access and egress from the rescue site	Trip and fall hazards from traversing difficult, uneven terrain that may include: • animal burrows and other holes in ground, cattle grids, tidal and water courses, presence of other animals, electric and other fencing, darkness.	Musculoskeletal injuries Risk of drowning in extreme situations Impact injuries from falls	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Trained staff Suitable personal protective equipment that includes water safety equipment where necessary Use identified 'Safe Routes' for access/egress where practicable Portable lighting Use of cordons, where practicable, to restrict access/egress for members of the public Dynamic Risk Assessment.

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
2	Working at the scene of rescue	Working on unstable ground including, mud, slurry, ice or grains and powders	Musculoskeletal and crush Injuries Possible suffocation or drowning in severe situation	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Adequate planning that includes: • Trained competent staff i.e. training that may include generic manual handling and other specific specialised training where necessary • Suitable personal protective equipment that includes water safety equipment, dry suits etc, where necessary • Command, control and communications • Competent supervision • Development of dynamic plan to manage and reduce risk • Suitable personal protective equipment • Provision of suitable well maintained equipment for the task • Cordoning of site
		Working close to collapsed or unstable structures	Severe crush injuries- possible death, caused by falling elements of structure etc. Poor decision making		
		Confined space working	Rapid fatigue potential for claustrophobia leading to stress to rescuer etc.	(as above)	Adequate pre planning that includes; trained competent staff. Suitable and sufficient equipment. Emergency plan

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
		Contraction of animal related diseases	Contraction of zoonosis – animal related infectious diseases- leading to acute and chronic health conditions Cross contamination by infected animal skin (dandruff) and saliva on to personal protective equipment and other equipment	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Suitable personal protective equipment Suitable levels of supervision Continual revision of risk management plan Dynamic management of potential kicking/ biting etc. zones Training, Information and Supervision. Suitable personal protective equipment Minimum numbers of staff Professional (veterinary) guidance and support and/or, animal owner Suitable personal protective equipment Suitable cleaning of personal protective equipment and other contaminated equipment

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
		Actions of frightened/ stressed animals	Musculoskeletal injuries ranging from minor to severe (fractures etc) caused by impact (kicks) and bites from distressed animal	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Dynamic Identification and control of kick and bite zones where practicable Suitable first aid provision Rescuers to remain on dorsal side of animal where practicable
		Working at height	Falls resulting in injuries ranging from minor to severe Poor decision making	(as above)	Training and supervision Safe system of work including fall restraint/ arrest systems Suitable and sufficient equipment Nomination of Safety Officer where necessary Robust incident and site management
		Poor light levels	Injuries caused by misjudgement due to limited visibility	(as above)	Personal torch Portable lighting Suitable personal protective equipment

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
		Severe weather conditions	Injuries and fatigue caused by severe weather	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assiting at or in close proximity to incident	Welfare considerations where necessary e.g. hot drinks etc, in cold weather, cold drinks in hot weather Frequent relief/change over of personnel
		Hot weather working	Heat fatigue and sunburn	(as above)	In addition to the above, provision of sun block cream etc., where necessary
		Working near water	Hypothermia from prolonged working in water. Possible drowning in extreme situations. Contraction of waterborne diseases	(as above)	Suitable personal protective equipment
		Working near traffic routes	Inappropriate use of audible warning devices on approach to incident leading to animal distress/panic Impact injuries from uncontrolled vehicles	(as above)	Approaching appliances to stop using audible warnings as soon as it is safe to do so Traffic control to be set up as necessary High visibility personal protective equipment Liaison and assistance from police

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
		Use of unsuitable (non FRS) equipment	Excessive noise levels from farm machinery disturbing stressed animals Sudden failure leading to injuries to rescuers and distressed animal	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Local (dynamic) assessment to be made and managed as appropriate
		Attempting rescue with insufficient resources or skills	Failure of rescue attempt	(as above)	Primary use to be made of FRSs equipment and only trained competent personnel to operate such equipment Incident Commander to assess any other equipment being considered
		Well intentioned but inappropriate or undesired action by animal owners other non FRS personnel	Potential injuries to FRS personnel ranging from minor to severe Injuring themselves and interfering/reducing the effectiveness of the rescue activity Possible injuries to FRS personnel	(as above)	Training, information and supervision Equipment maintenance, inspection and testing Only competent (or closely supervised) personnel to be involved in rescue attempt Robust incident management required ensuring only approved individuals enter risk area Use of police, where required, to control situation

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
		Other nearby animals with enhanced emotion, size and weight such as: • females defending their young • intact (non-castrated) males 'defending' their territory	Likely to react adversely leading to defensive attacks etc. Incident deterioration	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Such potential scenarios to be included in training for such events Such events to be considered in initial briefings where necessary DRA training.

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
3	Contact with inherent site hazards	Exposure to or contamination by hazardous substances used, stored or damaged in the vicinity of operations which may include: • veterinary medicines, • agro chemicals, slurry, fuels oils etc. • damage asbestos related building materials Low level overhead power supplies	Contamination by veterinary medicines leading to chronic conditions and possible death Acute and chronic health conditions caused by exposure herbicides, pesticides as well as other agrochemicals as well as other respiratory risks etc. Risk of electrical burns, shock and possible electrocution	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident	Trained competent staff Suitable levels of supervision Suitable personal protective equipment that includes chemical protection measures where necessary Provision of Hazmat adviser Provision of safety officer where considered necessary Planning DRA training Use of cordons as necessary.

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
4	Use of non FRS equipment	Unknown or poor maintenance regime leading to premature failure	Sudden failure leading to severe injury to personnel and other individuals in the vicinity and or distressed animal Failure of rescue attempt	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident and the animal being rescued	Incident Commander to ensure that a dynamic evaluation is carried out and that that FRS equipment is primarily being used and operated by competent personnel Non FRS equipment to be used only where no FRS equipment is available or suitable. Such equipment only to be brought into use with the approval of the Incident Commander following an assessment.
5	Use of improvised FRS equipment	Limitations of use and any safety provision may not have been established	Sudden failure leading to injury to personnel, members of the public as well as the distressed animal and damage to equipment	FRS personnel Non FRS personnel assisting at or in close proximity to incident as well as the animal being rescued	Incident Commander to ensure that a dynamic evaluation is carried out Improvised working should be limited to such activities that have been previously practiced.

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
6	Releasing of rescued animal	Frightened, stressed animal running amok or struggling to get free, when near to being released Contraction of infectious diseases from animals – particularly sheep	A range of injuries caused by be kicked, gored or crushed Enzootic abortion	Individuals involved in rescue or in close proximity to animal Pregnant women	Tactical rescue plan should include the controlled release of rescued animals may include the use of halter or lead rope etc if felt appropriate, as well as identification of suitable egress route for animal, as well as those involved in rescue – where necessary General awareness and policy preventing pregnant operational personnel from attending incidents.
7	Making up prior to leaving incident	Inadequate decontamination	Prolonged or extensive exposure to contaminants potentially leading to various illnesses or conditions	FRS personnel	Incident Commander to ensure that appropriate local decontamination is implemented including the suitable cleaning of personal protective equipment.
8	Leaving the site	Other animals escaping Appliances leaving mud on roads Lack of adequate site egress/traffic management	Escaping animals causing road traffic collision Excessive mud deposited on highway contributing to road traffic collision Appliances accessing public highway creating hazards leading to road traffic collision	FRS personnel Passing motorist Escaping livestock	Appropriate level of decontamination to be assessed dynamically. Prior to leaving site Robust management of the closing of the incident to be implemented.

Summary of Generic Risk Assessment 2.5

Large animal rescue

Task – Initial stages of the incident/as the incident develops

Ref. No.	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Persons at risk	Control measures
9	Training of FRS personnel	Lack of suitable training	May cause otherwise avoidable injuries Failure of intended task Damaged equipment Incident deterioration	FRS personnel Other persons in the vicinity	All personnel who expected to attend such incidents (including those who may supervise such incidents) to be given training commensurate with their role.
10	Provision of personal protective equipment	Lack of adequate or suitable personal protective equipment	Injuries ranging from minor to major may result	FRS personnel	The adequate provision of suitable personal protective equipment to be provided to support and protect FRS personnel carrying out the varied and hazardous tasks.