

Animal Transport Accidents

NUMBER	DOC18/116956	VERSION	2.0
APPROVED BY	LLS Senior Executive Team	APPROVED DATE	7/03/19
AUTHORISED BY	Director Major Programs	AUTHORISED DATE	7/03/19
ISSUED BY	Director Major Programs	ISSUE DATE	15/03/19
CATEGORY	Emergency Management	REVIEW DATE	15/03/22

1. Purpose

To provide guidance to Local Land Services (LLS) staff on the incident response process to a transport accident involving animals.

This procedure is to be read in conjunction with the LLS Policy: Animal Transport Accidents and other supporting documents including the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Consequence Management Guide (CMG).

2. Requirements

- Regions must ensure LEMCs are aware of this procedure, related policy and other supporting documents
- LEMC representatives will ensure that the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON) has the appropriate contact information of General Manager or delegate in each region
- The local *CMG - transport accidents involving animals* needs to identify and capture specialist expertise for animals that are not livestock e.g. horses, poultry
- In the event of a livestock transport accident, LLS will attend where possible, when called upon by NSW Police, for the purpose of animal assessment, handling and destruction
- A response team will be identified at the most appropriate local office to contribute an appropriate number of trained staff to the accident
- All LLS staff attending animal transport accidents will have been inducted into the relevant LLS procedures and policies
- Where possible, an LLS district veterinarian will attend the scene
- A follow up debrief is to be held within 72 hours of the accident
- A follow up report is to be produced by the LLS officer in charge (OIC) and submitted to the General Manager (or delegate) after the accident

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Owner of stock/animal carrier driver

- The owner of the animals and/or the animal carrier driver have responsibility for management decisions of the animals, if present and capable at the accident site

- Note: Where an owner or person in charge of animals is unable to make decisions about the animals LLS are to liaise with NSW Police
- Note: some larger stock transport companies have a policy of assuming immediate ownership in the event of an accident

3.2 LLS Officer in Charge (OIC)

- Supervise all LLS staff at the accident site and manage the LLS on-site response
- Liaise with the NSW Police Incident Controller (IC)
- Coordinate and communicate with other response agencies at the scene
- Conduct on site risk assessments where and when required
- Contact with the owner of the stock or person in charge through the NSW Police (this may be the transport company representative or driver)
- Maintain contact with General Manager (or delegate) throughout the response
- Assist or perform stock handling/destruction (note only those authorised can perform stock destruction) as required
- Record details of the accident and provide records and situational report to General Manager (or delegate)
- Attend the debrief

3.3 Response Team

- Attend the accident and participate in on site risk assessments
- Assist or perform stock handling, assessment and destruction (note only those authorised can perform stock destruction)
- Assist in the management of equipment
- Assist in the recording of details of the accident
- Attend the debrief

3.4 General Manager or delegate

- ensures the Agricultural & Animal Services Functional Area (AASFA) response is managed from start to finish
- ensures staff directed to attend have been appropriately trained and meet firearms licencing requirements
- allocates resources including communicating the responsibilities to each staff member involved (including sourcing assistance from external sources i.e. private veterinarians) or delegating responsibilities where relevant
- communicates to the region's General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of LLS, during and after the accident
- provides a report to the *Department of Primary Industries (DPI) State Emergency Coordinator and State Operations Local Land Services* post-accident
- produces any Ministerial correspondence as required
- conducts a debrief within 72 hours of the accident

4. Equipment

- A grab kit is to be available and will include high visibility vest, head torch, folders and stationary (including risk assessment template), ear muffs, hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, stock marker or similar (to tag triaged stock), stock signs, electronic tag reader, notebook, pen and a tarp
- Spot trackers /mobile phones or other communication devices must be activated and carried by all staff attending the scene in line with regional policies
- Firearms with appropriate ammunition and/or captive bolt gun with charges for the destruction of animals. The calibre of firearms must be appropriate for the type of stock and situation. The staff members tasked with destruction of animals will determine the appropriate calibre and projectile for the accident
- Safe storage, transport and use must be in accordance with the NSW Firearm legislation, LLS Firearms policy and procedure
- If required and available, take portable yards.

5. Response

5.1 Arrival

- The *LLS Officer in Charge (OIC)* must report to the NSW Police Incident Controller (IC) at the scene. **LLS will not be permitted to enter the site until it is deemed safe**
- Inform the NSW Police IC that LLS have firearms locked in their vehicle
- The LLS OIC **must complete a risk assessment** prior to any staff engaging in operational tasks. Mitigation measures must be applied where necessary

5.2 Stock assessment and destruction

- The *LLS OIC* is to contact the owner or person in charge of the stock where possible, via the NSW Police site controller
- Assessment and destruction should proceed in accordance with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA)*
- Where possible, obtain a photograph of the National Vendor Declaration
- Where possible, obtain written consent to euthanase any animals requiring destruction. Consent can be provided by email, text message and verbally (which is recorded).
- LLS OIC to establish a system for assessment and possible destruction. Include all agencies in the communication of this process to clearly define the role and responsibility of the team and outline the steps to be taken for assessment and destruction
- Firearms or captive bolt may be required for destruction of stock. The authorised person tasked with destruction will determine the most appropriate means of destruction – captive bolt / firearm and the appropriate calibre. Undertake a risk assessment prior to use of firearms
- NSW Police must be informed of any decision to destroy animals and the need for firearms use
- Knives and blunt force trauma will not be the primary method of destruction

- After destruction of each animal, commence the approved method of confirmation of death (the five finger head check) before moving onto the next animal. Record details of destroyed stock e.g. photos, identifying numbers
- LLS regions have the option to assist with the containment of livestock that have strayed from the site. This may require the use of portable yards. Any stock that have strayed should be contained where most appropriate
- Stock not requiring destruction must be held in a secure holding until they can be moved
- In the absence of contact with the animal's owner, a veterinarian should be consulted to ensure animal welfare and any disease risk is considered when animals are held on public or other property
- To contain livestock on privately held land, the permission of the landowner/landholder must be obtained

5.3 Carcass disposal

- Carcass disposal is the responsibility of the local council and LLS can provide advice on biosecurity considerations
- Provide advice to local council on AUSVETPLAN and NSW Environment Protection Authority guidelines
- Carcasses will be removed from the site and public view as soon as safe and practical by the local Council staff or their nominee/s. If carcasses cannot be removed quickly, they should be covered from public view (e.g. using tarps or tents)
- Prior to disposal of carcasses on travelling stock routes/reserves or crown land, consultation is required through the Aboriginal liaison officer to determine the location of significant sites

5.4 Collate information

- LLS OIC to ensure records are kept and provided to General Manager (or delegate)
- Information to be included:
 - NSW Police report number
 - the owner of the stock
 - truck driver's name
 - contact number for carrier
 - licence plate number
 - number and type of stock involved in the accident
 - number and type of stock destroyed and an estimate of the number already dead
 - extent of injuries (including photos)
 - time present at the scene
 - where possible, the National Livestock Identification scheme (NLIS) number/s should be recorded
 - completed risk assessments
 - any injuries to staff

5.5 On scene debrief

- LLS OIC will conduct an on scene debrief with the NSW Police IC (where possible) prior to departure
- LLS OIC coordinates LLS departure from the site and notifies the NSW Police IC and the LLS General Manager (or delegate)

6. Post response

6.1 Report home

- LLS OIC reports on team's behalf to General Manager (or delegate) on return to the office/home

6.2 Expenses

- It is at the discretion of the individual region involved to determine if they wish to claim expenses for the response

6.3 Follow up debrief

- The General Manager (or delegate) should organise a follow up debrief which should be conducted within 72 hours of the incident

6.4 Report

- The LLS OIC is responsible for submitting a situation report of the incident to the LLS General Manager
- The General Manager (or delegate), as per NSW Department of Primary Industries policy, is responsible for providing a written situation report to NSW DPI State Emergency Coordinator and LLS State Operations
- The report needs to include the NSW Police report number

7. Abbreviations/Definitions

- Animals: includes any animal/s transported by a vehicle requiring a coordinated response
- CMG -Consequence Management Guide: a hazard specific document which provides agreed emergency management arrangements in a 'checklist' concept, and forms part of the Regional and/or Local Emergency Management Plan
- Combat agency: the agency identified in the State Emergency Management Plan as the agency primarily responsible for controlling the response to a particular emergency
- Consent: Permission from the 'person in charge of the animals' which is recorded (i.e. record of a verbal conversation, a text message, an email or other record)
- DPI – Department of Primary Industries
- EPA – Environment Protection Authority
- IC – Incident Controller
- Livestock: cattle, pigs, small ruminants (sheep, goats and alpacas)
- LLS – Local Land Services
- LEMC – Local Emergency Management Committee
- LEOCON – Local Emergency Operations Controller
- NLIS – National Livestock Identification Scheme
- NVD – National Vendor Declaration
- OIC – Officer in Charge

- Person in charge - as per POCTA definition
- PIC – Property Identification Code
- TSR – Travelling Stock Route/Reserve

8. Legislation

- [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979](#)
- [State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989](#)

9. Related documents

1. SWMS animal transport accidents
2. Site Survey for animal transport accidents
3. Local Land Services Policy: Animal transport accidents
4. [NSW DPI Policy, Management of animal transport accident responses](#)
5. Consequence Management Guide (CMG) for transport accidents involving animals
6. [Humane destruction of livestock](#)
7. AUSVETPLAN - <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/>
8. LLS policy, procedure and SWMS – Firearms

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	2/11/16		Emily Kearns
2.0	March 2019	Updated procedure to reflect CMG use at LEMCs	Steve Eastwood

Review date

15/03/2022

Contact

Steve Eastwood Business Partner Emergency Management 0427007186