

TITLE OPERATIONS MANUAL	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 02		DEPARTMENT FIRE-RESCUE
SUBJECT ANIMAL RESCUE	SECTION 50	PAGE 1 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE December 22, 2023

I. PURPOSE

To provide direction on animal rescue responses.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief authorizes this policy.

IV. POLICY

SDFD will respond and assist as a public service to requests for animal rescue(s). The nature of these incidents may generate significant media attention and public interest.

A. Fire Personnel

Requests received by the Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC) for animal-related incidents will be reviewed by the Fire Dispatch Supervisor (FDS) or the ECDC Battalion Chief (BC) before dispatching. The ECDC BC shall consult with the Shift Commander if the nature of the response is questionable.

1. "Animal Entrapment" will be used for the following incident types:
 - i. Animal rescues in confined spaces where specialized equipment may be required, such as sinkholes, walls, drains, or trenches
 - ii. Animal rescues in elevated positions where ladders or other special equipment may be required
 - iii. Large animal extrication requiring specialized equipment and personnel, such as horses stuck in confined spaces or deep mud
 - iv. Live pets locked in vehicles and exposed to heat
 - v. Other animal-related calls where a Humane Society representative is at scene requesting assistance
2. Incidents will not be initiated for the following:
 - i. Sick or deceased animals
 - ii. Animals struck by vehicles (unless rescue is required)
3. ECDC will request a Humane Society representative for animal entrapment incidents.
4. When dispatched to an animal entrapment, personnel will respond and evaluate the scene to determine if assistance can be provided safely. If it is determined that service cannot be provided for reasons such as personnel safety, the reason will be communicated to ECDC and documented in CAD notes.
5. Requests for specialized equipment or personnel shall be communicated to ECDC.

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6. Fire, rescue, and medical incidents shall take priority over animal entrapment incidents.

- i. If a unit assigned to an animal-related incident is re-assigned to a fire, rescue, or medical incident, a replacement unit will be assigned to the animal incident

B. Lifeguard Personnel

Requests for a Lifeguard response to animal entrapment incidents will be dispatched to the appropriate Area Sergeant, who may consult with the On-Duty Lieutenant if the nature of the response is questionable.

1. Lifeguard resources may respond to the following animal entrapment incident types:
 - i. Animal rescue in the ocean environment. Rescues of this nature should include the notification and/or resource request of the appropriate federal, state, or local agency
 - ii. Animal rescues in elevated positions where special equipment may be required
 - iii. Other animal-related calls where a Humane Society representative is at scene requesting assistance
2. Incidents will not be initiated for the following:
 - i. Sick marine animals. In these instances, SeaWorld rescue will be notified of the animal's location and disposition
 - ii. Deceased marine animals unless extrication is required. In these instances, the Area Sergeant will notify appropriate federal and state agencies, as required, and consult with the On-Duty Lieutenant prior to extrication
3. LCC will request a Humane Society or appropriate resource representative, for animal entrapment incidents.
4. When dispatched to an animal entrapment incident, the Area Sergeant will respond and evaluate the scene to determine if assistance can be provided safely. If the Area Sergeant determines that assistance cannot be provided safely after evaluation, the circumstances shall be communicated to LCC and documented as a call for service.
5. Requests for specialized equipment or personnel shall be communicated to LCC.
6. Rescue, medical incidents, and other emergency responses shall take priority over animal-related incidents.
 - i. If a unit assigned to an animal entrapment incident is re-assigned to a rescue, medical incident, or other emergency response, a replacement unit may be assigned to the animal incident