

FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: II

SOP: 2900

SECTION: 2900

LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE

SUBJECT: LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM RESPONSE

PURPOSE: To provide all District personnel with an understanding of protocol and procedures relating to Large Animal Rescue Team response.

SCOPE: All personnel will be familiar with and abide by the following guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

1. It is the intent of the Felton Fire Protection District to serve the citizens and visitors of the Fire District with Large Animal Rescue response.
2. Further, it is the intent of the Felton Fire Protection District to provide Mutual and/or Automatic Aid to fire agencies in Santa Cruz County and adjacent counties. See SOP 2901 for Mutual and/or Automatic Aid procedures.
3. **Equipment:** The Large Animal Rescue team has a cache of rescue equipment. In the event of a large animal rescue this equipment will be used as needed to carry out the rescue. This applies to any large animal rescue, occurring either in the fire district or outside the fire district boundaries.
4. **Personnel:** The entire squad is encouraged to participate and respond to large animal rescues. Training and familiarity with the equipment, rescue techniques and procedures, and horse behavior is essential. It is understood that some will not feel comfortable around large animals. Personnel with this attitude are encouraged to observe until such a time as they gain some confidence and assurance. Large animal rescue can be labor intense. The number of personnel responding to the incident will be dictated on an incident-by-incident basis. For instance, some rescues may require only a couple of people, while other incidents may require 15 to 20 people. It is the fire district intent to respond as many personnel as needed to accomplish the rescue. When a Mutual Aid rescue is taking place, use the personnel from the fire agency where the incident is located.
5. **Vehicles:** Within the fire district, respond any vehicle that is necessary for the incident. Generally, this will be the Duty Officer pickup, the rescue and an engine. For Mutual Aid responses the same applies. The Officer in Charge

MUST keep in mind the response needs to cover Felton in the event of another emergency. This might require a cover engine from another fire agency.

6. **SAFETY:** People first, animal second. For instance, at a horse incident, check the rider first. If the rider is injured, they get first priority. Attend to the injuries of the rider first, and then proceed to the animal rescue. Fire personnel safety is key. It is the intent of the Felton Fire Protection District to provide for the safety of our fire personnel in order that no fire fighter is injured. Large animal rescue has potential for serious injury to people and animals. The utmost care must be taken to insure safety for all involved.

7. **Veterinarian Assistance:** Several Veterinarian's in Santa Cruz County have offered their service to the Large Animal Rescue team. There is a list of these veterinarians at the Fire Station and with the NETCOM dispatcher. Generally, the owner of the animal will contact their veterinarian. If a veterinarian has not been called, then one from the list may be used. It is understood that these veterinarians will not charge the Fire District for their services. They will contact the owner of the animal for any service charges they may incur. A veterinarian is essential in rescue incidents. Determination of injury and sedation may be needed prior to any rescue efforts. The animal may be too severely injured and put down by the doctor. Sedation of the animal may be needed to calm the animal prior to rescue. In certain incidents, circumstances may indicate the animal should be moved as soon as possible and prior to the veterinarian's arrival. In these incidents, assure for the safety of all personnel and proceed as needed. (An example is the over turned horse trailer incident on Highway 17. The horse was removed prior to the veterinarian's arrival. Safety was accounted for and it was in the best interest of the horse to remove him from the trailer. The veterinarian checked the horse upon arrival).