



NSW WILDLIFE
INFORMATION
RESCUE AND
EDUCATION
SERVICE

Work Health and Safety Risk Assessment

Identified activity for Risk Assessment

Manual Handling

Describe the identified activity / actions

1. Lifting, carrying and place animal transport boxes, cages and carriers
2. Handling injured, distressed or deceased wildlife during rescue and transfer
3. Pushing or pulling equipment
4. Manual handling of food, medical supplies and cleaning equipment
5. Assisting with animal restraining during assessment or treating
6. Repetitive handling task during extended care of feeding

Location of actions

1. Rescue location
2. Workshops
3. Vehicle
4. Vet
5. Public place (national parks, roadway, waterway, camps)

Identify the hazards, potential risks and current risk controls then rate them

1. Identify each hazard associated with the actions
2. List existing controls and determine a risk rating
3. List any tools or equipment needed



1-5 / 117 Old Pittwater Rd, Brookvale NSW 2100
PO Box 7276, Warringah Mall NSW 2100
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Wildlife Rescue Line 1300 094 737
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CFN 10170
ABN 30768872928
Incorporation No. Y0116216
info@wires.org.au
www.wires.org.au



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RISK MATRIX

What harm could occur?		What is the likelihood of the harm occurring?		Calculate the Risk Score						
Consequence	Description	Likelihood	Description	Consequence	Likelihood					
					Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost certain	
Catastrophic	Potential for death, permanent disability of ill-health	Almost certain	The event will definitely occur at some time or occur as a consequence of another event. Once every 1-3 years.		Catastrophic	Moderate	Moderate	High	Critical	Critical
Major	Potential serious long-term injury	Likely	The event is expected to occur at some time in the near future. Once every 3-5 years.		Major	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Critical
Moderate	Potential for injury or illness resulting in short term hospitalisation	Possible	The event does occur from time to time. Once every 5-8 years.		Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Minor	Potential for injury or illness resulting in medical attention and several days off work	Unlikely	The event might occur but is not expected. Once every 8-10 years.		Minor	Very low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Insignificant	No treatment required or first aid treatment.	Rare	Conceivable but highly unlikely to occur. Once every 10-15 years.		Insignificant	Very low	Very low	Low	Low	Moderate



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			Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	
Lifting / pushing / pulling / carrying equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury sustained from repetitive movement, sudden or sustained force or awkward postures • Muscular strain • Dropping item causing impact injury • Crush injuries to hands feet or fingers if load drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers advised to wear enclosed and sturdy shoes when completing any task • Access to a first aid kit • WHS considerations included in all WIRES training courses, including information on the members website outlining the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct manual handling techniques - Volunteers encouraged to stop task if unsafe - Mechanical aids or trolley etc used where available 	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human
Animal handling & restraint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury sustained from animal handling and restraint • Muscular strain • Bites/scratches or impact injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers advised to wear appropriate PPE including safety goggles / eye protection, gloves, long pants, long sleeved shirts • Access to a first aid kit • WHS training included in all WIRES training courses, including information on members website • Volunteers advised to attend rescues with another person wherever possible, especially in the event of handling large animals such as adult kangaroos 	Possible	Minor	Moderate	Human



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Repetitive manual handling task during extended care or feeding schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repetitive strain injuries to wrist, shoulder and or back Cumulative fatigue leading to reduced physical control Dropped loads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task rotation where practicable Assessing and recognising early signs of fatigue and strains 	Possible	Minor	Moderate	Human, Injury
Manual handling in uneven, confined or outdoor environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slips, trips, or falls while carrying loads Sudden loads shifts causing muscle strains Impact injuries from falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of ground and environmental conditions prior to handling Avoidance of manual handling on unstable terrain where possible Ensure adequate lighting Repositioning vehicles or equipment to minimise carrying distance 	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human, injury
Loading and unloading animals or equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overreaching or twisting leading to back injury Crush injuries from vehicle doors Dropping animal equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of step stools or ramps where available Securing vehicles doors prior to lifting Correct lifting techniques 	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human, injury, animal welfare



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor grip, instability 					
Inadequate assistance or working alone during manual handling task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed assistance in the event of injury Unsafe lifting due to lack of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers encourage to request assistance Instruction not to lift heavy or awkward loads alone Lone worker considerations included in WIRES procedures Ability to pause or delay if risks cannot be managed safely 	Unlikely	Moderate	Moderate	Human, injury
Manual handling of animals in confined spaces (vehicles, sheds, bathrooms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awkward postures leading to musculoskeletal strains Increased risk of sudden animal movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repositioning animals or equipment before handling where possible Use of carriers or containment devices Team handling where space allows Limiting duration of handling in confined spaces 	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human, injury
Manual handling in extreme weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced grip due to rain and heat (water and sweat) Increased fatigue or heat stress Impaired balance or concentration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather considered during rescue planning Weather-appropriate PPE Hydration and rest encourage Modification or postponement of task 	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Human, injury



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