

Health and Safety Standard

ANIMAL CONTROL STANDARD

1. PURPOSE

This standard supports the SaskPower Health, Safety and Environment Policy and establishes consistent requirements for workers exposed to dangerous wildlife and aggressive domestic animals.

2. SCOPE

This standard outlines the minimum requirements that shall be met or exceeded by SaskPower workers and contractors. Failure to comply may result in injuries, damage to equipment and property, environmental harm, performance management or any combination thereof.

The use of the word “shall” within this standard denotes a mandatory action, whereas the use of the word “should” or “may” denotes a recommended action.

3. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this standard:

Animal - for the purposes of this standard, an animal includes wild and domestic. Animals described here may include (but not be limited to) domestic dogs, bears, wolves and cougars. When observed, they are further broken down into sightings and encounters, to assist in managing the hazard’s associated risk.

Encounter - while the majority of animal sightings, including (but not limited to) a dog, bear, wolf or cougar, are passive occurrences, there may be situations where an animal’s presence is posing a threat. It includes situations when:

- An animal is about to enter a worksite.
- One may feel threatened by the presence of an animal with a potential to become a threat.
- An animal acts defensively toward a person.
- An animal acts non-defensively and ignores your presence.
- An animal approaches a person.
- An aggressive animal is encountered.

These encounters shall be reported as an incident in ESMIS.

Sighting – is an instance where an animal is seen but does not pose an immediate or potential threat to humans or property. All wildlife sightings may be reported as a Good Catch in ESMIS, while sightings on domestic animals do not require reporting.

4. REQUIREMENTS

4.1. IDENTIFY HAZARDS

- Hazards posed by animals shall be identified via a documented hazard/aspect and risk assessment (HARA). This includes:
 - Reviewing records of where aggressive animals are located.
 - Performing a site evaluation before entering worksite.
 - Identifying potential situations where animals may pose a hazard, such as:
 - Known location of potentially dangerous wildlife or domestic dogs.
 - Any previous animal related incidents.
 - Employees who work alone.
 - Location of workplace.

4.2. CONTROL METHODS

- Where possible dangerous wildlife and aggressive dogs shall be avoided.
- When working in areas with dangerous wildlife in the region, review and follow the **Wildlife Safe Work Practice**.
- If a domestic dog, the employee shall request that the animal be detained by the customer prior to entering the site, regardless if it is passive or aggressive.
- Where situations of potential animal related hazards are identified, employees and/or work groups that could be impacted shall be notified.
- Pre-contact controls and procedures include the following, where applicable:
 - Educational materials for the public on prevention and protection.
 - Communication to customers of domestic animal control requirements.
 - Appropriate communication devices.
 - SaskPower supplied animal personal protective equipment.
 - Avoid working alone. If needed, work using a buddy system.
- Post-contact controls to reduce the impacts of animal related incidents and to ensure appropriate responses include processes to:

- Provide medical attention, counselling and/or debriefing, as required.
- Record information concerning animal related incidents.
- Provide the information to employees who may be exposed to similar circumstances.
- Incidents shall be reported and investigated according to the Incident Management Process.
- Awareness shall be provided to employees who have been identified as at risk of animal related incidents, including but not limited to aggressive dogs or those exposed to wildlife.
- The appropriate authorities shall be notified of any and all animal attacks.

5. RESOURCES

5.1. INTERNAL RESOURCES

Related Policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SaskPower Health, Safety and Environment Policy ● Hazard /Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Policy
Related Standards:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hazard/Aspect and Risk Assessment (HARA) Standard
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safety and Environment Rule Book ● Safety Briefing #50: Animal Control Standard ● Wildlife Safe Work Practice ● Dog and Animal Awareness Guidelines ● Working Alone Standard ● Athabasca Orientation, Part 3

5.2. EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Related Legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Saskatchewan Employment Act, 2014</i> ● <i>The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020</i>
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Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/protect-yourself-and-your-property • https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/sk/princealbert/securite-safety/vist08a
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5.3. OWNERSHIP

Division:	Health and Safety
Department:	Safety Performance & Planning
Review Frequency:	3 years
Approved by:	Health & Safety Council
Approval Date:	3/30/2022

5.4. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Revised by	Revision Purpose	Date
Health and Safety Department	Scheduled Review Cycle	1/10/2017
Health and Safety Department	Scheduled Review Cycle	3/13/2019
Health and Safety Department	Scheduled Review Cycle	3/30/2022