

NFPA 2500 – Proposed 2027 Edition

Standard for Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents and Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services

TIA Log No.: 1900

Reference: 3.3.111 and A.3.3.111

Comment Closing Date: June 10, 2026

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1. Revise 3.3.111 and the associated Annex A.3.3.111 to read as follows:

3.3.111* Large Animal. ~~Domesticated livestock including, but not limited to, horses, cows, mules, donkeys, goats, llamas, alpacas, pigs, and excluding wild animals and household pets. Any nonhuman animal weighing more than 300 lb (136 kg).~~

~~**A.3.3.111 Large Animal.** It should be noted that the skill sets within this document can be applied to exotic/wild large animals such as tigers, antelope, bears, rhinos, and so forth with appropriate chemical restraint administered by an appropriate person as defined by the AHH.~~

Substantiation: Existing language limits “large animal” to livestock animals and specifically excludes wild animals and household pets. Increasingly, technical rescue is occurring in zoos and captive wildlife facilities. Non-human animals weighing greater than 300 lbs (136 kgs) is a more appropriate determination when considering safety factors for technical and general use equipment working load limits.

Emergency Nature: The standard contains an error or an omission that was overlooked during the regular revision process. The proposed TIA intends to correct a previously unknown existing hazard. The proposed TIA intends to offer to the public a benefit that would lessen a recognized (known) hazard or ameliorate a continuing dangerous condition or situation.

There is an urgent and growing gap in this safety standard that must be addressed prior to the next revision cycle. Emergency response personnel are increasingly being called to incidents involving zoos, captive wildlife facilities, and wildlife field responses. Limiting the scope of the standard to domesticated livestock fails to reflect the realities of modern animal emergency response and undermines the core intent of the standard—to ensure responder safety while enabling the most humane outcomes for animal patients of all species. Specifically omitting exotic and wild animals creates a significant risk that zoo personnel and responders operating within captive wildlife facilities will interpret the standard as not applying to their operations. This could result in the complete disregard of these safety standards at a time when many facilities across the country are actively expanding their emergency response capabilities to include large, captive wildlife. Without clear inclusion, the standard risks losing relevance in environments where the hazards to responders are often equal to—or greater than—those encountered with traditional livestock. Defining “large animal” by weight provides a practical and defensible solution. A weight-based definition aligns more closely with the safety factors established in NFPA 1983 for General Use Equipment and allows responders to appropriately evaluate equipment selection and operational techniques based on anticipated loads. This approach better accounts for both patient mass and behavior, which together create dynamic loading conditions that can significantly exceed static load assumptions. Addressing this issue now is essential to ensure the standard remains applicable, protects responders, and supports safe, humane outcomes across the full spectrum of large animal emergency incidents.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. Please identify the TIA number, state whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE the TIA along with your comment, and forward to the Secretary, Standards Council. [SUBMIT A COMMENT](#)