

## Mobile security in biosecurity emergencies

Mobile security field patrols assist in preventing the spread of emergency pests and diseases by controlling the movement of biosecurity matter and carriers (such as animals, plants, products and contaminated vehicles and equipment) according to the *Biosecurity Act 2015* on routes and temporary sites.

This is achieved by coordinating field patrols to:

- check boundaries of management zones e.g. infected premises, restricted and control areas
- address and/or report biosecurity breaches
- escort vehicles transporting contaminated material (usually to disposal sites)
- [decontaminate vehicles, equipment and things](#) (as required)

### Planning considerations

- Personnel conducting field patrols must be an Authorised Officer under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- Vehicle in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (and in this guide) is defined as conveyance of any kind, e.g. truck, trailer, train, ship, hovercraft, boat, raft, aeroplane, helicopter, hot air balloon, drone, and other aircraft, water craft and land vehicle.
- Carriers in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (and in this guide) means anything (whether alive, dead or inanimate, and including human) that has, or is capable of having, any biosecurity matter on it, attached to it or contained in it.
- Determine risk of routes in consultation with transport and local government representatives, and relevant agricultural industry representatives.
- Field patrols may be requested by other Operations Units such as Infected Premises Operations, to assist at sites with temporary [gate management](#).
- Field patrol personnel must avoid entering infected or suspect sites.

### Roles and responsibilities

Mobile security conducted by field patrols is coordinated by the Movements Unit in Operations.

Personnel inspecting vehicles must be an Authorised Officer (under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*) which includes Field Crew (Movements) role and NSW Police. Refer to the Operations section of the [DPI emergency response roles](#).

### Field patrols conducting mobile security

Personnel conducting field patrols are required to:

- a) Receive a briefing on what to do, look for, and relevant safety issues (see [Safety](#) below) for the allocated location e.g. property, area or route
- b) Contact site supervisor/owner (where relevant)
- c) Review safety assessment
- d) Collect resources for tasks (see [Resources](#) below)
- e) Travel to location - '[come clean](#)', meet site supervisor/owner (when possible)
- f) Conduct a location risk assessment (RA) – may include animal handling, working near traffic
- g) Conduct task – which may include:
  - Personnel wearing appropriate safety gear
  - Attaching biosecurity signs to fencing
  - Providing information to community members and landholders
  - Following contaminated material transport vehicle safely

- Decontaminating vehicles and surrounding area in cases of spills
  - Decontaminating vehicles, equipment and things exiting a management zone
  - Looking for and investigating breaches and unauthorised movements
  - Delivering permits for authorised movements
  - Serving Directions and Undertakings
  - Delivering stores and equipment to gates and checkpoints
  - Temporary gate management
- h) Record
- Complete an event log (includes risk assessment)
  - Task data – may include [chemical storage inventory and order log](#), [gate log](#)
  - Photos
- i) Depart location – [‘go clean’](#)
- j) Depart site and report to supervisor
- Conduct [debrief](#) including reporting any issues and [incidents](#)
  - [Download and label photos](#)
  - Submit data sheets
- k) Restock, return or maintain resources used during the task

## Resources

### General resources

- Vehicle - suitable for terrain and conditions
- First aid kit – suitable for location/conditions, may include additions (e.g. snake bite kit)
- PPE – suitable for the task and conditions, e.g. enclosed, non-slip footwear, high visibility vests, sun protection (hat, sunscreen), wet weather gear, insect repellent (refer to the [safety](#) risk assessment/safe work method statement)
- Recording devices with GPS capability – tablets, paper/pens/clipboard, camera (preferably waterproof and GPS capable)
- Data collection forms - [event log](#), [chemical storage inventory and order log](#), [gate log](#)
- Communication/safety devices – suitable for the area, e.g. mobile phones, radios (on GRN), satellite phones, personal locating beacon (PLB) or tracking device/App for remote/isolated work
- Water and food
- Contact details e.g. LCC, other teams, emergency contacts
- Information e.g. local area maps (maybe available on recording devices)

### Task specific resources

- Identification card, including Authorised Officer card
- Torches and spare batteries
- Portable decontamination equipment according to procedure [Decontamination of vehicles and equipment](#)
- Chemical with safety data sheet (SDS)
- Written information for drivers, e.g. disease/pest information, movement conditions, list of prohibited biosecurity matter, standstill order (if relevant), list of current permits

## Safety

Safety issues must be addressed by implementing appropriate controls. Risks may include:

- [Animal handling in emergencies](#)
- [Boating operations](#)
- [Dealing with aggressive stakeholders](#)
- [Driving vehicles](#)
- [Fatigue management](#)
- [Manual handling](#)
- [Property visits](#)
- [Remote and isolated work](#)
- [Working around plant and equipment](#)
- [Working on or around water](#)

## Further information

NSW Department of Primary Industries – [Operations resources and publications](#)