

**MARICOPA COUNTY RESOLUTION  
FOR  
ROADWAY/LIVESTOCK INCIDENT MITIGATION POLICY**

C.91.10.069.6.00

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, that criterion is established and adopted for the implementation of traffic control devices at identified livestock locations providing for the safest circumstances.

**WHEREAS**, the laws of the State of Arizona authorize the Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County to control and manage said public roads, streets and alleys within Maricopa County.

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of increased incidents of Livestock within the Public Right-of-Way, Maricopa County has developed a Policy to establish the appropriate response to livestock-involved roadway incidents to promote the safety of the travelling public.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the "Maricopa County Roadway/Livestock Incident Mitigation Policy", on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and made part hereof as though recited in their entirety, is hereby adopted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that adoption of this aforementioned Policy is intended to compliment the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Roadway Design Manual and MCDOT Supplements as may be currently in effect, and that the order of precedence between the foregoing authorities shall be governed by the Order of Precedence set forth in the Policy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Policy shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

**ADOPTED** by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in public session this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2009.

BY: Mark Wilson  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
John R. Clancy  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

**Title:** MCDOT Roadway/Livestock Incident Mitigation Policy

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines for the reporting and tracking of vehicle incidents involving livestock, and establish criteria for the implementation of traffic control devices at identified livestock locations providing for the safest circumstances.

**Policy Statement:** In order to provide the safest circumstances when drivers approach identified livestock areas the Traffic Management Division has established guidelines for the decision makers to follow. A procedure to capture calls relating to livestock incidents which include a "potential problem" designation, where an animal is standing next to the road, a "physically creating a traffic hazard" designation, where an animal is on the road, and an incidents with an animal caused injury designation (which may vary in degree of injury) is established in coordination with the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office. Criteria to differentiate between degrees of livestock incidents and strategies to address different livestock incidents have been developed. While there is no such thing as a perfectly safe roadway, nevertheless, MCDOT does have a duty to keep its highways reasonably safe for travel.

1. **Background:** Arizona is an "open range" state which means that in most areas not under jurisdiction of a municipality or other government agency, livestock are not enclosed onto property with fences but are allowed to graze freely. Roads in open range areas total about 280 miles of paved roads and 351 miles of unpaved roads. MCDOT follows the nationally recognized standards for cattle and animal warning signs as described in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). MCDOT also uses supplemental plaques indicating the distance over which the warning applies. This existing policy is often an adequate precaution against livestock hazards, since it is the duty of the driver to be vigilant in open range areas where such warnings are posted. However, there have been new developments affecting many aspects of this policy which include a substantial increase in cattle and urbanization encroachment upon open range areas. It is against this background that MCDOT has explored alternate ways to keep its transportation system reasonably safe, particularly from known obstructions and hazards, given that perfect safety is impossible to attain.
2. **Responsibilities:** The Traffic Management Division will record and track livestock incidents and accidents as received from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office ("MCSO") according to Maricopa County Sheriff's Office policy and any other source. The Traffic Management Division will evaluate and determine appropriate implementation strategies for a specific location based on criteria as described in Section 4 of this Policy.

3. Procedures: The following procedures will be followed for recording of livestock incidents and accidents, and for the implementation of traffic control devices at identified livestock locations for increase safety:
  - a. MCSO will implement the following radio codes for recording livestock/vehicle incidents:
    - i. 930L – Livestock Problem: This radio code will be used in responding to a complaint about livestock creating a "potential problem"; for example, a complaint regarding livestock standing next to a road, but not in the road.
    - ii. 961L – Vehicle Accident vs. Livestock: This radio code will be used in responding to an accident involving a motorized vehicle and livestock.
    - iii. 962L – Vehicle Accident with Injuries vs. Livestock: This radio code will be used in responding to an accident resulting in injuries involving a motorized vehicle and livestock.
    - iv. 963L – Vehicle Accident Fatal vs. Livestock: This radio code will be used in responding to an accident resulting in a fatality involving a motorized vehicle and livestock.
    - v. 585L – Traffic Hazard Livestock: This radio code will be used in responding to a livestock complaint where livestock is "physically creating a traffic hazard"; for example, the presence of livestock in the middle of the road.
  - b. MCSO will provide a report titled "MCSO Livestock Related Activity" setting out livestock activities as identified in Part 3.a. of this Policy to the Traffic Management Division according to Maricopa County Sheriff's Office policy.
  - c. The Traffic Management Division will analyze the MCSO reports, record livestock incidents and accidents on County roadways in a database for evaluation, and for implementation of appropriate traffic control devices.
4. Implementation Strategies and Evaluation Criteria: The following strategies and criteria will be followed:
  - a. Standard Signage: MCDOT will post warning signs in areas where unexpected entries into the roadway of animals have been reported. These signs will be installed in accordance with the guidelines of the MUTCD (signs W11-3, W11-4 and W11-12) and may be supplemented with "distance ahead" supplemental plaques (sign W16-2, W16-3 and W16-4) where applicable. Warning signs

shall be installed in locations with known livestock movement with five reported livestock incidents per mile within a 12 month period that is susceptible for correction.

- b. Additional Signage, Striping and Rumble Strips: Where two (2) or more livestock accidents/collisions with livestock are reported within the one (1) mile segment of roadway in which signage was installed pursuant to Section 4(a) of this Policy within a 12 month period following installation of that signage, MCDOT will evaluate and search for possible locations of incident concentration and will install additional signage to reinforce the warning to approaching drivers of the potential presence of livestock. On the roadway approaches to identified locations, MCDOT will also install striping which reads "watch for cattle" as well as a series of rumble strips.
5. **Order of Precedence**: Any inconsistency between the MCDOT Roadway/Livestock Incident Mitigation Policy and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation Roadway Design Manual (including supplements, amendments, and additions thereto) shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:
    - a. MCDOT Roadway/Livestock Incident Mitigation Policy
    - b. Roadway Design Manual (including supplements, amendments, and additions thereto).