

Procedure to Respond to Bison Incident at Burlington Prairie

Address: 13N240 Engel Rd. Sycamore, IL

1. Prevention and Preparation

The following steps will be taken to prevent bison from escaping the enclosure or facilitate the recapture of an escaped bison:

- a. Perimeters of the enclosure will be properly fenced and monitored regularly for breaches or damage.
- b. Gates will be closed and locked at all times. AIC, Ruhter Bison, and Kane County Forest Preserve will have keys to locks.
- c. New bison will be held in a holding paddock for no less than 48 hours to be accustomed to the new enclosure.
- d. Response teams will be trained and equipped to properly follow these procedures.

2. Response

3. Any reports of a bison outside of the enclosure should go to 911 (Kane COMM Emergency Communications Center) to notify Public Safety. Public Safety will respond and notify a Bison Response Team member:

● Jay Young	AIC co-executive director	Cell 785.312.1086
● Ruhter staff	Ruhter Bison	Phone
● Patrick Chess	NRM Director	Cell 630-649-1395
● Bill Graser	NRM Wildlife Biologist	Cell 630-301-2228
● Michelle Blackburn	Ag Coordinator	Cell 630-470-0990

4. If Team is unable to respond in a timely manner or if the bison are not on Kane County Forest Preserve land, 911 should notify surrounding Law Enforcement agencies of the incident, and to respond.

5. Gather basic information on the incident:

- How many bison are outside the fenced enclosure?
- Where are they located?
- How are the bison behaving (running, grazing, threatening life safety)?
- Has anyone been injured?

4. The first responding FPDKC Public Safety Officers or Bison Response Team member should determine:

- Has the fence been compromised, and if so, the exact location?
- Any other pertinent information as stated above.

5. FPDKC PS Officers will assume command of the scene and work in conjunction with the Bison Response Team members to implement this Plan. The goal of the Plan is to:

- Safely get the bison back into their enclosure.
- If this is not possible, or there is a threat to life safety, dispatch the bison.

Incident Response Logistics:

- Bison behavior may be unpredictable. An animal that is cornered, chased, or scared will become aggressive and may charge. Animals that are stressed or anxious will have greater flight distances, which means they will run away when approached even at a further distance. If more than one animal has escaped then manage both as a single escape and do not separate them.
- Give the Bison space and try not to stress the animal.
- Keep the public back at least 500 yards.
- Shut traffic down in the area if necessary.
- Request additional resources as necessary:
 - Law Enforcement Officers from adjoining jurisdictions, Kane County Emergency Management Personnel.
- Move remaining bison away from the breached fence so that additional escapes are prevented.
- Open available enclosure gates for escaped bison to re-enter the pasture.
- Use “range cubes / treats” to lure escaped bison to an open gate.
- Do not stand between the escaped bison and an open gate, or the escaped bison and the herd.
- Utilize vehicles or ATV’s as needed by positioning them in the opposite direction you want the animal to go. Keeps ATV’s, cars, and people outside of the flight zone.
- If the herd is still contained and the escaped bison is running the fence line trying to get back to the herd, then try to lure the herd away from the nearest gate. Ideally the open gate and the enclosed herd will all be within the line of sight of the escaped animal. Open the nearest gate for the escaped bison to return to the herd. Do not stand next to the gate, which will prevent the escaped animal from moving towards the gate. Do not get between the escaped animal and the herd or open gate, which will cause the animal to go further away. You can expect the animal outside of the enclosure to begin panicking once the herd moves further away. Place ATV’s or people outside the flight zone in areas where the bison should NOT go.
- If the herd is contained, but the escaped bison is somewhere else or if the entire herd has escaped, try to move the bison by positioning vehicles or ATVs in the opposite direction from where you want the animal to go. An animal will get scared if you get too close or becomes separated from the herd and may become aggressive. Make sure there are no people, moving vehicles, dogs, loud noises, flapping tarps, etc. in the path of where you want the animal to go. Move them towards an open gate. Do not stand or block the gate.
- People assisting in driving or moving an animal should have an escape route in the event an animal charges. Escape routes can be behind large trees, rocks, under fences, or in

cars. If the bison poses a threat to human life and lethal force is required, use a rifle at close range. Shoot the animal behind the ear for a quick and clean kill.

- If needed, FPDKC Police have two high powered rifles at their disposal for escape events.
- Ruhter/AIC will make the decision for euthanasia, outside of an emergency situation that poses immediate threat to public safety.

Burlington Prairie FP Map and gate locations:



Burlington Bison Pasture Emergency Response Map



Lenschow Rd

Lenschow Rd

Engel Rd

County Line Rd

Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve

Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve

12N565 W COUNTY LINE RD

49W630 PLANK RD

50W014 PLANK RD

50W050
49W924
49W880
49W830
49W800
49W794
49W720
14N060

49W475

13N403
13N375
13N345
13N325
13N275
13N245
13N193
13N157
13N119
13N091
13N055
13N017

13N286 Engel Rd

12N988

12N932

12N882

Gate 1

Gate 2

Gate 3


Gate 4

Gate 5

 Burlington Prairie Boundary

 Fence Perimeter

 Preserve Entrance

 12 Foot Gate

 Two 12 ft Gates

 4 Foot Maintenance Gate

