



Landscape Services

Safety Standard Operating Procedure

(Revised 7/2023)

Squirrel Trapping and Relocation

This SSOP provides guidance on the safe practice of ***Squirrel Trapping and Relocation***. Large and/or small equipment is not likely to be used during this protocol. However, with any equipment or tool, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual(s) produced by the manufacturer.

Safety Requirements PPE Required: Never handle an animal by hand. PPE beyond the typical and expected workday clothing is not necessary. However, it's always useful to have eye protection, gloves, and hard hats available. Use of a vehicle will be necessary to take squirrels to the release location. Drivers must be licensed and adhere to all safe driving practices.

Safety Hazards: Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, lifting, bending, overhead objects, dust, noise, sharp objects, equipment malfunction, pinch points, hot or cold temperatures, inclement weather, live animals and animal excrement.

Scheduled: Year-round.

Horticultural Elements: Squirrels are overpopulated on campus and pose a threat to our tree population. They also cause tremendous damage to our irrigation systems and other property on campus.

IPM: This is an example of Mechanical IPM Management.

We currently have four metal, tube-shaped, LIVE squirrel traps. Use of lethal traps is prohibited at this point. Traps should be positioned on the ground or ratchet strapped into trees in inconspicuous places, but near where squirrel activity is an issue. Traps legally **MUST** be checked at least once every 24 hours, although it's suggested to check them twice daily. Peanut butter is used as bait and is typically stored in the install shed. Small rodents, such as mice can get in the trap and eat the bait without setting the trap off, so it's important to rebait as needed. When a squirrel is caught it is released at Lake Carl Blackwell, red star on map below. It's *imperative* that the release is VIDEOED and that the video is emailed to the University Arborist or FMLS Assistant Manager. Pick up the traps on the weekends, store them in the yard behind the install shed, and wash them out as needed. If other animals are captured, (skunks, possums, pack rats, etc.) they can be released in the same manner or contact Pest Control for assistance (405) 744-0330. If a cat is captured, contact Payne County Animal Welfare (405) 372-0334.

