

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

All staff in the equestrian area are in a position of responsibility at all times!

All horsemanship staff should be trained in at least elementary first aid.

The best emergency procedure is PREVENTION!!

- A. Maintain a sharp educated eye
- B. Observe and enforce all of the rules that have been laid out
- C. Follow the safe, standard procedures that are established
- D. Observe and act in regards to the following:
 - 1. Condition and adjustment of the tack each time a rider is mounted
 - 2. Horses' mood and temperament
 - 3. Suitability of rider's abilities/personality with the horse's personality
- E. Gear the pace of the trail ride and/or lesson to the ability level of the weakest rider in the group

Emergency situations

- A. Wrangler/instructor in charge of the lesson/trail ride is in charge of an emergency situation
- B. All jobs during an emergency should be designated in writing so all concerned know what to do in advance of an emergency.
- C. Be familiar with these steps and be prepared to act on them clearly and in rapid succession
 - 1. **Prevent the emergency from multiplying**
 - a. Stop all riders
 - b. Have them dismount if necessary
 - 2. **Assess the situation** - What type of emergency is at hand
 - 3. **Delegate resources** (trained staff) to appropriate positions

Accident record keeping

- A. All accidents and injuries (no matter how insignificant they may seem to be at the time) are to be reported/recorded:
 - 1. To the proper medical staff
 - 2. In the Accident Record Book
 - 3. Under each horse's personal records
- B. Report facts as they are known - do not speculate or give opinions
- C. Contact parents (if a child is involved) shortly after an accident has occurred
- D. Wrangler/instructor in charge of the lesson/trail ride is responsible to see that each accident that happens is properly reported and recorded

Fire emergencies

A. Stable fires

1. Clear clients/students away from fire
2. Call fire department
3. Evacuate horses
 - have halters and lead ropes readily available by horses' stalls at all times
 - may have to blindfold some
 - secure in an area away from the fire
4. Keep gates and roads to the fire open for fire fighters
5. Use whatever fire fighting equipment available to fight fire while awaiting help

B. Brush fires

1. Evacuate clients/students to a safe area
2. Evacuate horses
 - do not wait until the last minute
 - if brush fires are common, halters should have ID on them

C. Forest fires

1. Ride to nearest road
2. Put natural barrier between group and fire (i.e. river, fire break)
3. Fire out of control:
 - stop motorist, and get clients/students to safety
 - remove tack and turn horses loose

Weather emergencies

A. Lightning

1. In open area:
 - stay away from lone trees
 - find low area or depression
2. In hills:
 - go to the bottom of a hill
 - go halfway down the hill if there is danger of flash flooding
3. In forest:
 - stay in the trees
 - choose a spot with shorter trees
4. If possible, get clients/students away from herd

B. Flash floods - get group to highest point that doesn't sacrifice other safety factors

C. Hail

1. Follow procedures for lightning (since it will probably be present)
2. May have to use saddles for rider protection

D. Wind

1. Follow procedures for lightning or hail if present
2. Stay away from deadfall which could come crashing down

E. Tornadoes

1. Find shelter for riders in a depression or at bottom of a hill (with hill towards tornado)
3. Remove tack and turn horses loose
4. Use saddles for rider protection

Injured or lame horse

A. In the arena:

1. Remove from class
2. Get another available horse for rider
3. Have available wrangler check on lameness (or do it after class)

B. On the trail: (See Instructor's Manual p. 55)

1. Check for stones or shoe problems
2. If lameness is light, proceed home at an easy pace
3. If injury is severe:
 - lead horse home
 - wrangler/instructor should lead, giving the rider their horse - DO NOT DOUBLE

