

Good and Bad Places to Go

- ◇ **Vehicle** - move the vehicle to bare ground or a sparsely vegetated area. Close all windows and doors, lie on the floor and cover yourself with a jacket or blanket. Normally fuel tanks will not explode until a vehicle is significantly on fire. Keep calm, stay in the vehicle, and let the fire pass.
- ◇ **Road Cut** - if caught without shelter on a road, lie face down along the road cut or the ditch on the uphill side (there is less fuel and convection heat). Cover yourself with anything non-flammable to shield yourself from the heat and flames.
- ◇ **Natural Chimneys** - a natural chimney is a narrow, steep canyon that concentrates heat and updraft. Temperatures may exceed several thousand degrees Fahrenheit during a fire. Also, precious oxygen is quickly consumed by the advancing fire leading to the threat of asphyxiation. Avoid natural chimneys.
- ◇ **Saddles** - topographic saddles are wide natural paths for fire winds and vegetation. Fire tends to be drawn up and over these depressions with great speed and intensity. Avoid saddles.
- ◇ Never try to outrun the head of a fast moving fire! Try to flank it or move into a burned area.

Smoke Inhalation

If you feel like taking a nap while the world burns around you, then you may be suffering from smoke inhalation. Smoke inhalation is a dangerous, debilitating and sometimes fatal condition.

Carbon monoxide, an invisible odorless gas present in wildfire smoke, attacks the brain and nervous system, causing temporary disorientation, impaired judgement, and slow reaction times. It also puts extreme stress on the heart.

If you feel yourself getting drowsy or confused, you may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. **You must get out of the smoke immediately.**

Smoke from wildfires also contain aldehydes and organic acids which are powerful irritants to the eyes, throat and lungs. A cotton bandana tied over the nose and mouth will help some, as will goggles, but you can still be overcome by smoke.

Smoke from a wildfire can create as great a danger as the wildfire itself.

High Mountain Riders Quincy

Membership Information

High Mountain Riders is an equestrian club formed for the purpose of promoting an interest in horses, horsemanship and other horse related activities such as clinics, horse safety, horse shows, trail rides, horse camping, play days, pleasure and combined driving.

We are also periodically sponsor young people in horse related activities to encourage their involvement in equestrian activities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of High Mountain Riders Quincy, please visit our website at www.HighMountainRidersQuincy.com where you can obtain a membership application.



Additional copies of this brochure are available on our website.

Much of the information in this brochure was originally prepared by K. Good, Los Padres National Forest, 1990. It was later revised by the Santa Barbara Equine Assistance & Evacuation Team, Inc., August 2000. In October 2015 it was again revised and updated by the High Mountain Riders Quincy.



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FIRE SAFETY

... For Horse Owners

Tips for minimizing the threat to you and your horse during a wildfire.



Maintain a “Fire Cache”

- ◇ A ladder long enough to reach the barn roof.
- ◇ A preconnected garden hose, with a spray nozzle, long enough to reach all outside structures.
- ◇ A shovel to clear vegetation and throw dirt.
- ◇ A rake for clearing vegetation.
- ◇ Several water buckets.
- ◇ A battery powered radio to monitor news reports and emergency evacuation broadcasts.

Keep these items together and easily accessible. Mark them with red paint for fire fighting only. Let others know where the “Fire Cache” is located.

Reduce Your Fire Hazards

- ◇ Store gasoline, solvents, paints and other flammables in an approved safety container.
- ◇ Keep stored hay, straw, shavings, scrap wood and other combustibles away from occupied buildings.
- ◇ Clean roofs, gutters and perimeter areas regularly.
- ◇ Keep shrubs and trees pruned.
- ◇ Maintain a fuel break around structures.
- ◇ Clear weeds in trailer and equipment storage areas.
- ◇ Identify two evacuation routes from your property.
- ◇ Post “No Smoking” signs in the barn and around vegetation areas.
- ◇ Make certain motorized equipment has approved spark arrestors, including chain saws.

Have a Plan

- ◇ Develop and regularly practice a barn **“Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan”** as well as contingency plans in case the primary plan fails.

Wear Safe Attire

- ◇ Cotton fabrics are preferable to synthetics. Synthetics melt and can cause serious injury.
- ◇ Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts.

- ◇ Heavy duty leather gloves are essential to protecting hands from disabling burns.
- ◇ Leather or “Vibram” type slip resistant shoes are the only safe footwear. Tennis shoes or rubber shoes will melt.
- ◇ Wear a cotton bandana to shield your face. While a wet cloth is more effective in smoke, it can cause serious steam burns to your face and respiratory system.
- ◇ Goggles will help protect your eyes from smoke and burning embers.
- ◇ Condition your horse to your strange appearance.

Use Fire-Safe Horse Gear

- ◇ The same principles for “fire safe clothing” apply to your horse.
- ◇ Avoid synthetic (nylon or plastic) lead ropes or halters. These will melt and cause serious burns to your horse and the handler. Leather halters and lead ropes without metal, while not as strong as nylon, are safer to use.
- ◇ Don’t use nylon sheets, blankets, fly masks or other synthetic tack or equipment.

Prepare an Evacuation Kit

- ◇ Equip a container with a lid (barrel or chest) with the following items.
 - ◇ Water bucket
 - ◇ Extra lead rope, halter, crop
 - ◇ Sheet or blanket
 - ◇ Equine first aid items
 - ◇ Anything else you feel is essential for your horses care for an extended period of time.

Keep the kit lightweight so it is easily transportable. Store it in an easily accessible location and use it only for emergencies.

Just Do It!

It has been shown time and time again, if you don’t take the time **NOW** to implement these suggested precautions, you probably never will. Do the right thing and prepare for a fire emergency today.

When the Fire Comes . . .

- ◇ Your personal safety and that of the people working with you must be your first concern.
- ◇ Try to remain calm, alert and to think clearly.
- ◇ A well rehearsed plan and contingency can bring calm to an otherwise confusing situation.
- ◇ Pay attention to conditions and fire behavior. Watch for a sudden change in wind direction, wind speed, humidity or air temperature. Look for an increase in smoke, ash and burning embers dropping around you.
- ◇ Post a lookout for possible dangers.
- ◇ Identify escape routes and safety assembly areas to ensure they are ready and clear.
- ◇ Connect trailers early and point vehicles in the direction of your escape route. Leave the doors unlocked, windows down and keys in the ignition.
- ◇ Maintain communications with those you are working with. Give clear directions and get feedback to make certain you are understood.
- ◇ Cooperate with firefighters and law enforcement. Your safety and the safety of other civilians and emergency personnel is their primary concern.

Caught in the Fire

- ◇ If you are not able to evacuate, look for safe areas to go to such as:
 - ◇ Clear open areas free of vegetation.
 - ◇ Open arenas and well grazed pastures.
 - ◇ Road cuts and banks, large boulders or rock outcroppings or depressions in the ground.
- ◇ Where ever you go, clear as much vegetation from your area as you can while the fire is approaching.
- ◇ If you have selected a ground depression for safety, clear as much vegetation as you can, then lie face down in the depression and cover yourself with anything non-flammable to shield yourself from the heat and flames.