



Vernon District Riding Club (VDRC)

Emergency Plan

REVISED 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures	2
Potential Risks	3
VDRC Emergency Planning Risk Register	4
The Eight Steps in any Action Plan	8
Signature on Grounds	8
Risk: Fire	9
Risk: Extreme Heat & Smoke	12
Risk: Biosecurity	15
EC Emergency Planning and Action Plans	17
AED	17

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Risk Matrix	3
Figure 2: Fire Department Access	11
Figure 3: Humidex Calculations, Caution Ranges & Activity Modification Guidelines	14

POTENTIAL RISKS

A Risk Matrix is used to help categorize potential risks. Each **Potential Risk** is evaluated for its **Likelihood** of occurrence and its **Impact** if it happens.

Figure 1. Risk Matrix

		Impact →					
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe	
Likelihood ↑	1	Very Likely	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High	High
	2	Likely	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High
	3	Possible	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	Med Hi
	4	Unlikely	Low	Low Med	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi
	5	Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low Med	Medium	Medium

Every risk identified to be in the High Range will be detailed under the headings below. Risks that have a Severe Impact or Very Likely Likelihood will also be detailed. Selected risks in the Medium or Medium High ranges will be detailed if considered useful.

1. Identification of potential risk (in and out of our controls),
2. Prevention of risk,
3. Response or solution, including who is responsible for the response
4. Mitigation
5. Recovery or Back to Play.

A Risk Register is used to summarize potential risks with the above information and helps identify which risks and what information should be detailed in the Emergency Plan.

VDRC EMERGENCY PLANNING RISK REGISTER

Risk Evaluation						Action Plan			
Risk Title & Description	Cause(s)	Effect(s)	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Level	Prevention/ Existing Controls	Lead Responder Responsible	Response	Mitigation, Recovery
Fire: Fire Breaking out on site	System failure (electrical etc) Carelessness	Threatens structures, fences, jumps	1	5	5	Regular Inspection No open fires allowed.	Groundskeeper Event Organizer	Fire Department	Fixed & mobile sprinklers, hoses, fire extinguishers in place.
Fire: Wild Fire in area	Wild Fire	Threatens structures, fences, jumps	1	5	12	Fixed and mobile sprinklers could be redirected to protect structures from ignition.	Groundskeeper	Volunteers assist Groundkeeper in protecting systems.	Rebuild as necessary.
Extreme Heat:	Temperature and Humidity	Limits human and equine activity	3	4	12	Monitor	Event Organizer	Monitor conditions of athletes. Change dress, schedule, activities	Allow activities as suitable.

Smoke	Wild Fire	Limits human and equine activity	1	4	4	Monitor	Event Organizer	Monitor conditions of athletes. Change dress, schedule, activities	Allow activities as suitable.
Biosecurity: Infectious disease outbreak, dead animal removal pg 21-29	Disease Transmission, Accident	Disease transmission at show & return to entrant's stables	2	5	10	Monitor disease sites	Event Organizer	Information, quarantine facility	Disinfection, Removal
Power Outage	Storm, Fire, Mudslide	Announcing capability limited, timers off	1	3	3	Monitor	Groundskeeper Event Organizer	Work around	System repaired
Flood	Weather, run-off	Rings unusable	1	3	3	Good location & drainage	Groundskeeper Event Organizer	Delay show/clinic, evacuate	Return to competition
Mudslide, Landslide	Weather, run-off	Rings unusable	1	3	3	Good location & drainage	Groundskeeper Event Organizer	Delay show , evacuate	Return to competition
Water Shortage	Power Outage so water system off,	Horses need water	1	3	3	Monitor	Groundskeeper Event Organizer	Bring water tanker to site for supply,	Repair system

	mains contaminated							send horses home	
Thunder and Lightning - page 12	Weather	Show Delay, Lightning strike danger, footing compromised with rainwater	2	2	4	Plan for delays, sufficient protective structures	Event Organizer	Delay show until danger passed, horses to stalls, people to club house	Return to competition, complete report (Stewart)
Injury to Human - page 17-19	Accident	Play suspended in area of injury	3	1	3	EMT/First Aid on site during competition, 911 services available	Medic/EMT	Safety Person responds, removal from arena if necessary	Show continues, injury dealt with at appropriate level
Injury to Equine - page 17-20	Accident	Play suspended in area of injury	3	1	3	Veterinarian on call during competition	Veterinarian	Vet or Official responds, removal from arena if necessary	Show continues, injury dealt with at appropriate level
Missing or Lost Person pg 30-32	Confusion	Could wander into competition zone. Could be lost in brush on edges of property	1	1	1	Limited, Confined area, people around edges of competition zones to prevent	Announcer	Guidance, Announce, search	Recovery



						ingress			
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THE EIGHT STEPS IN ANY ACTION PLAN

An emergency or crisis is identified! ***Modify to suit show/clinic***

1. A crisis, problem or emergency has been identified.
2. Initiate. Communicate with, or bring together your decision making team.
3. Identify and activate control — the person who will coordinate all next steps.
4. Brief the team on the issue.
5. Review the appropriate emergency action plan for that scenario.
6. Initiate and carry out the plan.
7. Return to play as soon as possible.
8. After resolution and not later than end of day review with the team and draft report.

SIGNAGE ON GROUNDS

Map of the show grounds including the proper address for 911 with safe locations identified, food services area and parking and specific driving instructions if needed; and

Contact information for show office (including outside hours), veterinarian, farrier, official (this depends upon discipline and level of competition),

Emergency services (fire, police, ambulance and 911), nearest hospital and nearest equine veterinary emergency clinic.

Contact information for dead stock removal and the closest equine post-mortem facility should be available in the show office.

RISK: FIRE

NOTE: Emergency egress via perimeter gates (not main gate) must be confirmed with the current Land Owners.

Map & response should be amended to indicate approval and all gates available.

1. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISK (IN AND OUT OF OUR CONTROLS),

There are two fire risks to be dealt with at the Club facilities.

1. Fire breaking out on the facility
2. Wild fires in the area.

The Property has only one (1) access to the roadway, creating a bottleneck for emergency vehicle access and for emergency evacuation. Alternate egress points must be confirmed and announced.

2. PREVENTION OF RISK

Open fires are not permitted during most of the normal riding season on the VDRC grounds, reflecting District of Coldstream Fire Regulations. Gas/Propane BBQs are permitted unless prohibited by Fire Season restrictions (high fire risk rating).

3. RESPONSE OR SOLUTION

Local Fire Protection is provided by Coldstream District Fire Department, a volunteer organization, with the Fire Hall and equipment located 300 meters south on Aberdeen Road. Emergency 911 access. Non-emergency (250) 545-2096.

Fixed and mobile sprinklers are normally in use for dust control in the rings. They can be reoriented to protect the structures. Hoses are in the equipment area that could be used for small fire control. Fire extinguishers are located in the Club House and at each row of stalls.

Emergency Services Information including facility address is posted at the Club House.

All people and horses would be moved away from the fire and evacuated from the facility as needed without blocking the main (only) entrance to/from the road to allow fire services access.

Activities may be canceled if wild fires threatening.

Regarding a fire breaking out at the facility, there are fire extinguishers installed; two in the Clubhouse, and one at each row of stalls outside.

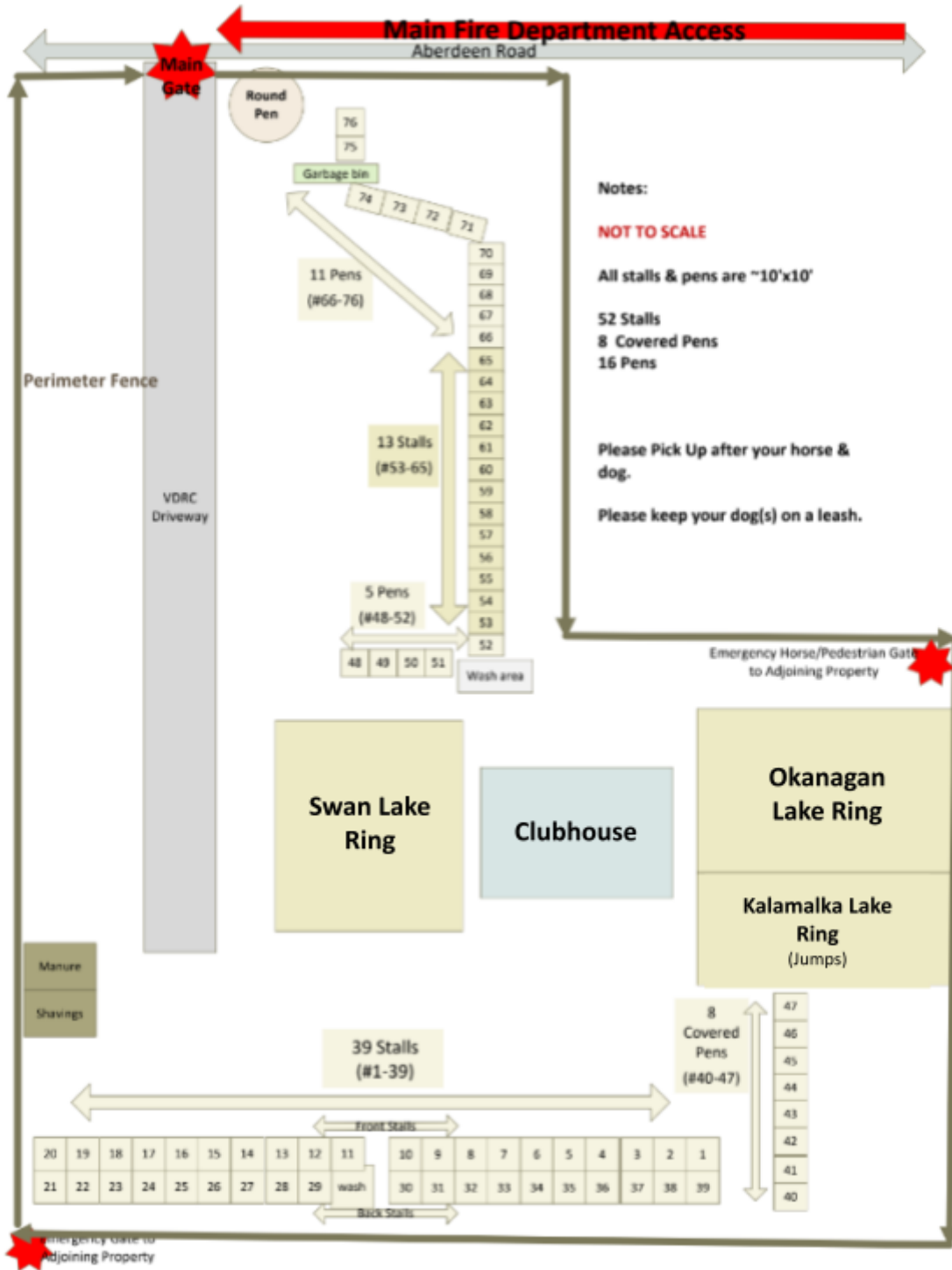
4. MITIGATION

As most of the structures and equipment are constructed of wood, they are highly susceptible to fire. Vigilance is required. Extra evacuation routes may be developed.

5. RECOVERY OR BACK TO PLAY

The VDRC has some insurance coverage for structure replacement. Once the debris from the fire is cleared away and essential fencing replaced, the area would be safe for riding use. The facilities would need to be rebuilt.

Figure 2. Fire Department Access - emergency egress TBC



RISK: EXTREME HEAT & SMOKE

1. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISK (IN AND OUT OF OUR CONTROLS),

The Likelihood of having extreme heat conditions during the riding season in the Okanagan Valley is considered to be very likely. The Impact varies with the temperature and the activities and must therefore be planned around.

Activities during high temperature periods must be monitored. Most summer days in this region presents temperature/humidity conditions that are considered to be in the ranges where caution must be taken for athletic activities.

During fire season, smoke may be present and inhibit athletic activities in a similar way to the heat.

2. PREVENTION OF RISK

As the humidex (identified on the next page) cannot be controlled, activities must be.

3. RESPONSE OR SOLUTION

EC recommends modifying activities and increased monitoring in response to the humidex reading. A chart suggesting appropriate accommodations is on the next page.

Monitoring the conditions of the human and equine athletes and of the work crews is everyone's responsibility. The Show Manager, or designated Official, is responsible for dress, scheduling and any other changes to suit the conditions.

Athletes may be removed from play if showing signs of heat stroke. The appropriate show medical personnel should be involved.

4. MITIGATION

As we cannot control the weather, we schedule shows when the normal temperatures are not at the summer peak.

5. RECOVERY OR BACK TO PLAY

When the temperature is at an acceptable level, the extra precautions can be removed.

When an athlete has been removed from play, the medical personnel must agree to their return to sport.

Figure 3. Humidex Calculations, Caution Ranges and Activity Modification Guidelines

NUMBEXA — WHAT IT ACTUALLY FEELS LIKE (THE NOT EQUIVALENT OF WIND CHILL)

An extremely high humidex reading can be defined as one that is over 40. In such conditions, all unnecessary activity should be curtailed. If the reading is in the mid to high 30s, then certain types of outdoor exercise should be toned down or modified, depending on the age and health of the individual, physical shape, the type of clothes worn and other weather conditions.

Relative Humidity (%)	Temperature																
	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
40	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	37	39	41	43	46	48	51	54	57
45	27	28	29	30	32	33	35	37	39	41	43	46	49	51	54	57	
50	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	41	43	46	49	52	55	58		
55	28	29	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	46	48	52	55	59			
60	28	29	31	33	35	37	40	42	45	48	51	55	59				
65	28	30	32	34	36	39	41	44	48	51	55	59					
70	29	31	33	35	38	40	43	47	50	54	58						
75	29	31	34	36	39	42	46	49	53	58							
80	30	32	35	38	41	44	48	52	57								
85	30	33	36	39	43	47	51	55									
90	31	34	37	41	45	49	54										
95	31	35	38	42	47	51	57										
100	32	36	40	44	49	54											

Deciding when it is too hot to play sports depends on the heat index. In modifying or cancelling sports practices, keep in mind the following:

Heat Index under 35°	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means water should always be available and athletes (human and horse) should drink water regularly to remain hydrated. Amend dress requirements — jackets must be removed Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action
Heat Index 35° to 37.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means water should always be available and athletes (human and horse) should drink water regularly to remain hydrated. Amend dress requirements — jackets must be removed Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action Monitor warm up especially and limit if necessary Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index
Heat index 37.2° to 40°	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This means water should always be available and athletes (human and horse) should drink water regularly to remain hydrated. Amend dress requirements — jackets must be removed Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action Monitor warm up especially and limit if necessary Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index Organizers and officials on notice of potential stop due to excessive heat
Heat index above 40°	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play.

HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS IN THE HORSE

Also known as heat exhaustion or hyperthermia, heat stroke is a condition that occurs with horses performing a great deal of work in excessively hot or humid conditions. When the horse is unable to lose body heat, its body temperature goes up rapidly, causing severe (and sometimes fatal) health concerns. Therefore, heat stroke must be treated promptly and properly.

SYMPTOMS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Rapid pulse and breathing (50+/min) | Heavy breathing/panting (20 breaths/min+) |
| Restlessness/Lethargy | Increased sweating |
| Excessive salivation | Redness of the tongue and oral area |
| High body temperature | Erratic heart beat |
| Stumbling gait | Muscle spasms |
| Collapse | |

Note: Some horses experience anhidrosis and do not sweat. Their skin may be hot and dry and still experiencing heat stroke.

RISK: BIOSECURITY

References:

Biosecurity toolkit for Equine Events from California Department of Food & Agriculture -
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/pdfs/Biosecurity_Toolkit_Part_1.pdf

National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity User Guide for the Equine Sector -
<https://www.equestrian.ca/cdn/storage/resources/v2/fhZxcZgZrToYHKdpX/original/fhZxcZgZrToYHKdpX.pdf>

1. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISK (IN AND OUT OF OUR CONTROLS),

The VDRC hosts horse shows, clinics and other riding events which the stresses on the horse from travel, stall confinement, and/or a new environment can make the horse more susceptible to disease.

Shows bring horses from different locations, backgrounds and vaccination histories to one location, resulting in increased potential for interaction between horses, thus increasing the risk of disease spread.

2. PREVENTION OF RISK

As of 2023, the VDRC requires all horses coming to the VDRC grounds to have documented proof of up to date vaccinations from a veterinarian.

Ensure proper cleaning of stalls before and after use since bacteria, viruses and parasites can remain viable and able to spread in manure, shavings or other stall material.

Manure pile is located in a confined area away from regular traffic to avoid spread of contaminants.

3, 4, 5. RESPONSE OR SOLUTION, MITIGATION, & RECOVERY

In this section, the response, mitigation, and recovery steps have been combined in this document, since in response to a sick horse, the VDRC follows the disease response outline as described in the *National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity User Guide for the Equine Sector* page 40-41:

1) NOTIFY:

The horse owner, person responsible, event manager, groundskeeper, and veterinarian must be notified of the sick horse.

2) SEPARATE:

An area of isolation on site of the VDRC will be designated for the sick horse to limit contact with other horses, dogs, and humans. Proper barrier and disinfectant practices must be followed by the individual handling the horse, and on any equipments/items used with the sick horse.

3) OBTAIN A DIAGNOSIS:

A veterinarian must examine and diagnose the sick horse to identify the nature of the disease and if it can be spread.

4) RESPOND AND COMMUNICATE:

Alert other competitors of the sick horse and its diagnosis (once determined). It is important to minimize panic and overreaction to limit any hasty actions and further disease spread. Notice of the sick horse must be communicated accurately.

5) IDENTIFY EXPOSED HORSES:

Must identify horses that were in direct contact (physically touched) and indirect contact (shared water, shared equipment, adjacent stall) with the sick horse.

A direct excerpt from the *National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity User Guide for the Equine Sector*; "In general, horses with direct contact are high-risk animals, horses with indirect contact are medium-risk animals, and horses with no known direct or indirect contact can be considered low-risk animals for infection and spread of disease. Knowledge of the disease is important to identify potentially high-risk horses."

6) RESTRICT MOVEMENT:

Until a veterinarian diagnosis, restrict movement of any potentially exposed horses on or off the property. For the horses already on property, depending on the diagnosis, medium and low risk exposed horses may continue in competition.

7) MONITOR HORSES:

Monitor and care for the sick horse as instructed by the veterinarian. Other horse owners on the property should monitor their horses for symptoms.

8) RELEASE HORSES:

Before any movement of horses, a veterinarian should be consulted. Once approved, the sick horse or potentially infected horses may be transported home in isolation from other non infected horses, back to their home barn. Provide information for all horse owners leaving the facility on the disease and symptoms to watch out for.

EC EMERGENCY PLANNING AND ACTION PLANS

EC Emergency Planning and Action Plans

<https://www.equestrian.ca/cfs/files/resources/pZjWCwasGy46NZgex/Emergency%20Plan%20EN%2011242016.pdf?token=eyJhdXRoVG9rZW4iOiIifQ%3D%3D>

AED

There is an AED located beside the front door at the Clubhouse and can be operated at this location.