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Horsemen's
Association

D·I·S·P·A·T·C·H·

Volume XXIII Issue 10

Pam Turner, Editor

October 2009

General Meeting: October 15 – 7pm Ken Anderson: A NIGHT OF DRESSAGE

We thought we'd do a demonstration, but the evening light is waning, so we will probably be indoors for most of the evening, with a few tips and demos in the ring. **Ken Anderson** will be your speaker. Ken, along with being a fabulous rider and trainer, is an amazing teacher! I can attest to that!

Dressage evolved from cavalry movements and training for the battlefield so it has been around for a very long time. It's about balance and "being with the horse." I imagine being in knightly armor, carrying your enormously heavy shield and being OFF BALANCE! Some people call it ballet on horseback. I call it the hardest and most physically taxing work out I have ever had! And yet, it is addicting. Come to the Empty Saddle Club at 7pm and enjoy a superb evening with one of the great students of this demanding sport.

Charlene O'Neil, VP Education



DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

Information with respect to any treatment, therapy, program, service, advertiser or provider is intended for information and educational purposes only, and is not to be considered an endorsement by the PVPHA.

Due to the extreme fire danger, Heidi provided us with some important information at the September meeting. Her presentation is printed in its entirety.

Horse Evacuations from The Hill

By Heidi Furer

I am a volunteer of ERT, LA Co, Animal Care & Control, Equine Response Team. I have been managing shelter sites for a few years during fires in LA County. During the recent RPV and Station fires, I put in almost 100 volunteer hours during 8 days at equine shelter sites. I realized that, we (the horse people in PV) were very lucky during the last fire and I don't want to see any horses harmed or worse. There is a real logistical problem evacuating and sheltering all the horses on this Hill.

During the current fire, most owners made their own arrangements to bring their horses to the shelter site. Most did not use county volunteers or employees to transport their horses, which is what we encourage. I sincerely applaud them.

If you use county assets, transportation, shelter, a heads-up: if you evacuate your horse to a county shelter, and someone else is going to pick up your horse, you will have a delay unless that person's name is on the county "intake sheet" as "authorized to pick up your horse." Also, shelter sites are generally closed within 18 to 24 hours after evacuation orders are lifted. It is always the owners' responsibility to transport their horses' home.

Once the county declares a facility, a shelter site, they control the site including the locations of the horses and have the right to move, (generally within the facility), any of the evacuees. It does not matter if the evacuees arrived before the county declares the facility a shelter site.

Only sites officially declared equine shelter sites will be manned by the county or ERT 24 hours a day. The ERT volunteers have horses and have had many days of training. They have a passion to help the horses and their owners. Part of the purpose of ERT is to allow you to drop off your horse knowing it will be well cared for enabling you to address your other immediate needs due to the fire without worrying about your horse.

ERT and animal care employees are only activated after evacuation orders are issued by the Fire Department. It is much safer and less hectic to evacuate your horse before this point.

Most county resources will take over an hour, (easily 3 plus hours) to arrive. This may be too late. Most of the time ERT and the county only activate, AFTER, first indication of voluntary evacuations orders, which the Fire Department issues. You want your horses out before this point. During a fire you can request county assistance via Animal Care and Control to evacuate your animal to their shelter site, but only after evacuation orders have been issued. You can NOT pre-arrange this. I have been told to make sure you understand there is no pre-arranged county transportation. Don't count on this resource, since it make take a while for your call to get to a real person, then to someone who can make the appropriate contacts, then hope the resources are available.

I know one of your biggest questions is: Where are the Shelter Sites? Shelter sites and staging areas are not made public since it could be a death trap for you and/or your horse. If you think you know of one and go there, such as EHP, but due to current fire conditions, the Fire Department does not believe it safe, not only will you delay your evacuation, but also, you will endanger yourself and your horse.

I am sorry to state that it could be a challenge to determine the location of the horse shelter site. The news media provides that information to the public, but I know it has been wrong

many times; especially stating a facility is full when it is not. You can call Animal Care & Control or the local Sheriff's station. A word of

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caution, you might have trouble getting through Animal Care & Control and the person answering the Sheriff's phone might not have that information on their desk yet. It is a challenge. Another option is to call Pierce College Sheriff, answered 24 hours, asking if their Equestrian facilities have been activated as an equine shelter site. If they don't know, they should be able to find out. You might have to wait for them to drive there. That might be the fast way to determine if it is an equine shelter site.

The Carson Animal Care & Control number is 310-523-9566. The Lomita Sheriffs business number is 310-539-1661. The Pierce College Sheriff is 818-719-6450.

It is best to pre-plan to evacuate your horse off the hill. OFF THE HILL!

- EHP and the ESC have never been officially declared as future equine shelter sites. During the current fire EHP was used, but that was a very unusual fire. The fire was at the coast with winds blowing toward the ocean.
- EHP may appear to be a logical shelter site, but if the Fire Department has any doubt that the fire might reach a shelter site, the facility will not be used. They avoid declaring a facility a shelter site if they might need to evacuate it later during the same fire. For this reason EHP is unlikely to be used during most fires on the Hill. Under that scenario, what would you do if you brought your horse there and had to evacuate your horse a second time? Or even worse, what

if you were not allowed back into EHP due to fire conditions?

- If there is any chance that the ESC might have to shelter in place, the ESC will need all of their resources to shelter-in-place their horses and cattle, tying them to the roping arena or turning them loose in the other arenas. We are still working to determine if we have enough resources to shelter all in place. Turning horses loose in arenas is not safe, there will be injuries and is our last alternative. Therefore the ESC would not have any available safe place for your horse.
- Your closest country shelter site is likely to be over an hour away, such as Pierce, but don't drive there until you can confirm. Go ahead load up your horse, get off the Hill, then get off the road, (maybe a parking lot), then use your hands free device to phone. Don't contribute to the problem by being distracted by the phone.

You are strongly encouraged to pre-arrange your transportation and have at least one back-up plan, preferably 2 or 3. You may not be home to provide the transportation or your transporter might have too many similar commitments or is not available.

Your pre-arranged plans should include:

*****PRE-PLANNING YOUR EVACUATION!!!*****

During a wind driven fire there may NOT be a safe place on the Hill for any horse. In this situation, my husband might take our mules to a pre-arranged location in Burbank, yes Burbank. There are lots of backyard horses, stables and the Equestrian Center in that area. Bet you will soon think of lots of places closer for your use. I understand the Equestrian Center will charge a fee.

Do not stage or have your horse in a trailer waiting **ON THE ROAD!!!** You will probably block or delay the emergency vehicles!!!
REPEAT... Do not stage or have your horse in a trailer waiting ON THE ROAD!!!

NEVER TURN YOUR HORSE LOOSE. ^{3.} Not only might you never see that horse again, but also even more important, if it runs into a vehicle, the accident will probably block the emergency vehicles, disastrously, delaying the fire fighting. If it runs into a fire truck, that truck will be out of commission for the entire fire or much longer. **NEVER TURN YOUR HORSE LOOSE.**

Some things you may not have thought off:

- How many exits does the hill have? Maybe 4-5? If large portions of the population exit the hill, how many hours might it take to get off the hill?
- Most exits and roads will likely be one way, except for emergency vehicles.
- Most professional haulers will probably give priority to previous customers, probably numerous previous customers.
- In May 2008, Juanna Lamb and I evaluated many stables on the hill to determine how many horses they could shelter in place. Bottom line, most could not shelter-in-place all their horses, with possibly the exception of the ESC. Many of their horses may have to be turned loose in the arenas.
- Many horses will be competing for the same safe sheltering and transportation as you.
- The closest shelter site might be over an hour away, possibly Pierce College. Could take 2 or more hours, one way

depending on traffic. It has taken me that long to drive there.

- What is the ratio of horses to trailer space in PV? Assume every trailer is used. Even if you assume 10 additional ERT, county, or out of area trailers, how many trips will each trailer make to remove the horses, assuming they keep returning to evacuate horses? How long will it take for one round trip? How long will it take by the time the last horse is removed from the Hill, assuming it trailers?

1. What are your options:

- Make plans to transport your horse and have at least one back up plan.
- Make plans with a local friend/relative off the hill. (You might have to assure them you will pay for any damages your horse does to their yard.)
- Make plans with stables off the hill. (You might contact more than one stable since they may be full by the time you get there.)
- There might be a business that has a dirt lot, with something safe to make safe high-lines. As you drive around look for something that might work. If you find something, consider contacting the business/owner, to determine if something can be worked out for you during an emergency. Try to avoid using horse trailers as secure points for tie lines since each stationary trailer will prevent more horse evacuations. Or at least wait to use them until all the horses are off the hill.
- Maybe one of you knows of an enclosed dirt area off the Hill. Maybe you could work with fellow

equestrians to make arrangements and organize for its use.

Organization, pre-plan, man it 24 hours, decide in advance your rules, etc.

- Maybe designate someone locally, but off The Hill to gather information during a fire, such as current shelter site location, then text the equine community or an equine group.

4.

- Make sure your horse leads, trailers, will enter a trailer, (even in the dark), and can tie for long periods of time. If your horse does not lead, it will not get in a trailer. If it will not trailer, it will probably be left behind! If it will not tie, it could become seriously injured! During an emergency is not the time to teach your horse to trailer or tie.
- Have a "to go" bag with, First Aid kit, halter(leather or nylon),ropes (cotton) for a "tie line", water bucket for your horse, meds & instructions, flashlight, duct tape, ID for you, for your horse, for your equipment, black permanent marker, manure fork, trash bags, labels with your name and phone number, a good photo (of your horse showing identifying marking, with you and an identifying background), know where the hay is stored and throw in a bale of hay. For you: water, protective clothing (including long sleeves) such as cotton, wool or leather, (synthetics and rubber burn), leather boots & gloves, goggle, mask for nose & mouth, (if not available a cotton bandana), fire extinguishers, the list can be endless.

For more information especially related to horse disasters, "What do I do with my horse, in fire,

flood, and or earthquake?" go to:

<http://www.vhoa.org/documents/redbookrevision8-2004.pdf>

For more fire preparedness information, the fire department has a new document called "Ready! Set! Go! Wildfire Action Plan" that can be found at a link on: www.fire.lacount.gov. I encourage you to become familiar with this web site, not just the link to "Ready! Set! Go!"

What I have shared with you is short, concise and not meant to be complete, but to encourage you to make at least two pre-evacuation plans.

In addition to all of this, most of you have responsibilities to others, children, family members, other pets, etc. Therefore your horse may not be a priority. Pre-planning with many alternatives is essential for you.

In closing, I would like each of you to think about the following: What are you going to if you are informed about a fire that might threaten your horse if:

- You are at home?
- You are at work?
- Your most important meeting of the year?
- At the grocery store?
- At 2 A.M.?
- In your car waiting to pick up your children at school or one of their activities?
- You are at a doctor's office, with a family member or friend you promised to chauffeur and stay with them?
- On vacation, out of state?
- Riding on the trail?
- 2 Hours away?

There is a lot to think about, but please don't just think, make plans:

- Make transportation arrangements, and have the transporter tell you if someone has priority to you, if so how many? Keep in mind that can change.
- Make arrangements for your horse to stay some place safe. You are welcome to include the county shelter sites if activated, but they may be a long distance away. When Pierce is full, Ventura Fairgrounds has been used.

5.

- And don't forget your "to-go bags", and equipment!

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Sheriffs business number : 310-539-1661.

Pierce College Sheriff 's : 818-719-6450

FROM THE EDITOR...

Happy Harvest Time to all! It's always lovely to see the leaves change color along the trail. Isn't the poison oak beautiful this time of year? And the smell of Fall in the air, pies cooking, fireplaces a smoking. As long as the fire stays in the fireplace that is fine with me. We have had a couple of fires up one in Portuguese Bend and then a small one along Crenshaw that was put out quickly. I hope you all read Heidi's report on evacuating your horses from the Hill. It is quite enlightening.

Don't miss Cowboy Days at the Empty Saddle Club. It is always a fun time for all who drop by. With the days growing shorter be sure to take advantage of your early evening rides while you can.

Happy Trails,
Pam Turner



A reminder: Goin' Green to Greener Pastures

PVPHA is encouraging all of us to GO Green when it comes to the Dispatch. Let's save some trees so horses and all of us will have shade and reasonably decent air in the future. Therefore effective 1/1/10 the Dispatch will no longer be mailed. It is available online now. If you need the Dispatch mailed to your home then please complete and mail in the OPT IN form below and we will continue to mail it to you. Otherwise you will need to go to www.PVPHA.org to access your Dispatch.

OPT IN – Dispatch by mail

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What's Happening!

Oct 15- General Meeting –Ken Anderson:
History of Dressage and live Movement
Demonstration

Oct 16-18 – Cowboy Days at ESC

Nov 19- General Meeting – Vaccines and more
from Farnham

Welcome New Members!

Adam Birkenback
Rosa Arroba – Referred by Pat Murnane
Allison Kari
Betsy & Warren Schoettlin
Craig & Michelle Blanch

Thank you Trail Donors!

Rosa Arroba
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2 tickets Norris Theater play	June Olney	
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1 Hour guided trail ride WWR Ranch	Teri Griggs	
Oil Change & Tire Rotation	Walton's Aut	Lisa Vidov
1 Hour Private Western Lesson w/Jan Bal	Roz Evans	
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Horse Bath Basket \$50	The General Store	Cindy Glacken
\$40 Chicago Ribs Feast		Ed Ballard
\$40 Babouch Moroccan Restaurant		Linda Bentz
Horse Care Basket \$35	Lomita Feed	Gil Houle
Horse Care Basket \$35	Lomita Feed	Brenda Carapino
Horse Care Basket \$35	Lomita Feed	Mike Krotz
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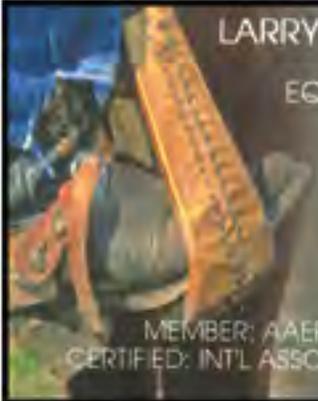
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