

CHILDER WOOD HEAVY HORSES

Working horses in forestry, agriculture, tourism and education

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RISK ASSESSMENT; SHOWS AND HORSE LOGGING DEMONSTRATIONS.

Shows vary in size and content but certain key risks are common. These are dealt with below. Specific risks are covered in the standard risk assessment pro-forma which will be completed on the show site. Horses and people can be unpredictable and shows often include loud gun fire, children's amusements, banners and tentage and all sorts of other things that might move, make a noise or otherwise startle a horse. Many of these things are not what the horse will routinely come across and great care should be taken to reduce fear and these risks and to introduce the horse to them. It is often a good idea to arrive very early or even the day before to allow the horse to see the show build up around it and acclimatise.

Static display/holding area. This should be positioned away from any major hazards, have sufficient space to hold the horse at ease and should be supervised as much as is reasonable. It is imperative that the horse feels safe and can relax.

Contact with the public. Sensible contact is to be encouraged. Movement through the show (eg to and from performance area) should be direct, avoid hazards and, if necessary, stewarded. Public is to be discouraged from inappropriate behaviour especially feeding tit bits. Barriers, hazard tape, warning signs etc to mark restricted areas if site specific risk assessment identifies a need.

Horse. Well trained and calm horse reduces risks. Harness and equipment in good repair.

Handler. Professional and competent handler reduces risks. Suitable PPE to be worn.

Insurance. Suitable level of Public Liability Insurance to be held, valid for the event.

Equipment. All equipment displayed or used should be kept so that it does not represent a hazard to the public, eg taped off or kept within an enclosure.

Electric Fences. Fences not to be live whilst the show is open. If made live (eg overnight) suitable warning should be given if necessary.

Movements. Moving a vehicle or moving from an overnight area to the daytime area should be completed outside normal show opening hours, with permission of the show organisers and with stewarding if necessary.

Other, specific risks: Complete pro-forma risk assessment on site.