

DISPLAY ORGANIZERS

- Anyone organizing a fireworks display should inform horse owners living within a 2 KM radius of the site well in advance of the date of the event.
- Try to avoid letting off fireworks around farms and properties with livestock.
- If a display must be in close proximity to livestock use low noise fireworks.
- A recommended display site distance is a minimum of 500 metres away from livestock properties.



Most people don't realize how much suffering fireworks can cause to animals, particularly horses. Horses have acute hearing and can pick up vibrations. The unfamiliar sounds and vibrations can be very frightening and cause a horse to panic.

Prey animals like horses react suddenly to noises and stimuli; they may spin, buck or run in a panicked state endangering themselves and those around them.

Organizers of fireworks displays should carefully assess the risk to people, livestock and property that the types of fireworks will have.

HORSE OWNERS

- Be aware of upcoming events that may include fireworks.
- Tell firework display organizers that there are horses nearby, a "*Horses Live Here*" sign on your gate may also let people know there are horses in the area.
- Keep your horses normal care routine. If it is usually stabled, keep it stabled. If it is normally out in the field, keep it there as long as it is secure and not close to the fireworks display area.
- If your horse is to stay in the field, make sure fencing is strong and secure.
- Ensure that you, or someone experienced, stays with your horse during the fireworks display.
- If you must leave your horse in the care of another person during a firework display, then be sure to leave clear instructions and contact details for both you and your veterinarian should any problems arise.
- If you know your horse will be stressed, talk to your veterinarian about sedation.
- Earplugs may be an option, but ensure your horse is used to them before a fireworks event.
- Leave a radio playing in the barn for distraction.

- Calm yourself and stay positive, as horses sense unease in a person and this may make things worse if the horse is startled.
- Keep yourself safe, be aware when handling your horse and pay close attention to his body language; a startled horse can be dangerous and unpredictable.
- Make sure that you have adequate third party liability insurance. If your horse is frightened and escapes, causing an accident, then you could be held liable.
- HCBC membership includes a five million dollar third party liability coverage.
- See www.hcbc.ca for information on available insurance coverage.

By being proactive in planning for fireworks events you can reduce the stressfulness for you and your horse.





Not all horses are bothered by fireworks. Many horses remain calm and relaxed or only show a casual reaction to the loud noises and flashing display.

But for those horses that can't cope, the result of a fearful panicked reaction can be catastrophic. The potential to cause life altering injuries and/or extensive property damage can be the unfortunate outcome of your horses flight - survival instinct.



PREY ANIMALS



Horses are prey animals with instinctual behaviours that make them very aware of their surroundings. Horses can respond unpredictably to unfamiliar sights and sounds. They have tremendous power with quick reflexes when their flight instinct is triggered

Run Now! – Look Later! is the usual formula for a horses sense of safety! The guidelines in this brochure may help in reducing stress for horses during fireworks displays

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HORSES & FIREWORKS



**BE PROACTIVE IN PLANNING
FOR FIREWORKS EVENTS**

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