



Welcome to the Safe Horse Handling Training Program.

For additional copies of this program, please contact the Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FARSHA) at 604-881-6078 or toll free 1-877-533-1789.

Why this program is important.

The Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association is committed to reducing the number of injuries and fatalities on farm and ranches in BC. The long term goal of Safe Horse Handling training program is to reduce occupational injury and disease particularly on ranches.

Who is this training program for?

This training program is valuable for working cowboys and ranch hands/family members who utilize horses as part of their daily or seasonal work activities. It is adaptable and useful for the recreational rider, packers and wranglers, and those who handle horses to a lesser degree. A packer and wrangler specific training opportunity is being developed by FARSHA.

Module Content

The training program is divided into 4 modules. The program can be delivered in its entirety or divided into stand alone modules that can be delivered independently.

DVD Synopsis:

The DVD clips and film footage segments will be utilized to enable training through the provision of a visual assist.

These segments are included to enable a greater degree of understanding The DVD is in menu format and allows the instructor to select the particular area of interest. The instructor can then tailor the presentation to the size of the group and work within time constraints.



Activities

DVD presentation with film clips and accompanying narrative.

Review of Case Studies

Interactive discussion and learning

Additional instructional points from instructors guide

Alternate Instructional Strategies

Many in attendance may have additional information to offer that may be of value and enhance the presentation.

It will be important to guide the interaction of the group so they understand the concept of safe practices and to focus on recognizing potential hazards, then evaluating and managing the risk.

Some discussion questions are provided, for your consideration.

Consider the flow of the meeting and questions you might ask that would create discussion and draw out any expertise in the room.

The Supplementary Information & Review materials can be used in whole or in part to provide additional information or reinforce a concept.

The DVD will stand alone without any additional comment..

This is not a “horse training” seminar. The emphasis is upon the safety of the handler while carrying out various common horse handling-ranch tasks. Although well trained horse is always safer than one poorly trained. Participants should be encouraged to seek outside training opportunities and available materials to increase both their own and the horses abilities.

Advise that FARSHA has some materials that may be valuable for training.

If the instructor feels comfortable and competent, live animal use may supplement the instruction.



Lessons At A Glance

Length	Flexible from 10 minutes to 4 hours
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Understand basic safe horse handling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be better prepared for rough country riding ▪ Understand principles of safe range roping and pasture doctoring. ▪ Be better able to safely undertake farrier work
Instructional Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstration through DVD presentation ➤ Group discussion-case study ➤ Personal experience ➤ Supplementary information from instructors' manual
Equipment/Instructional Aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DVD / TV monitor ➤ "Safe Horse Handling" DVD (3 disc set) ➤ Overhead projector and transparencies ➤ Participant handouts
Assessment Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Questioning ➤ Case study

Lessons Breakdown

Disc 1	Opening-Closing Gates, Horse Handling Basics, Slide #1 & Rough Country Riding
Disc 2	Roping, Trailering, Shoeing, Pasture Doctoring, Wit & Wisdom (interviews), Slide Show II (still photos)
Disc 3	Colt Starting (1:14 min presentation full narrative)



Purpose

This training program is designed to help working cowboys and ranchers who use horses, increase their safe handling practices. To help them realize their ability to affect the outcome of potentially hazardous situations using safe horse handling procedures and techniques.

Focus – Safe Horse Handling

- Remind participants of the focus -

“THIS IS A RISK MANAGEMENT FOR HANDLERS - INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE AND NOT A HORSE TRAINING COURSE”

FOR HORSE TRAINING - CONSULT A HORSE TRAINER OR REVIEW SOME OF THE MANY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST TRAIN YOUR HORSE

Duration

Flexible: You can utilize short menu DVD segments for a brief presentation, or you can present the entire package of materials in 4-6 hours

Instructional Materials:

DVD 3 Disc set

Transparencies

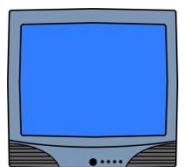
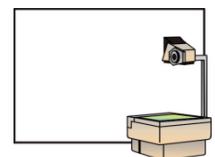
Student Handouts:

(photocopy for learners)

1. Visuals & key material notes
2. Case Study Worksheets

Equipment:

1. Overhead projector and screen
2. TV and DVD player





Disc 1

G A T E S

Group Discussion:

Suggested Time: 2-10 min.

Discussion Starters

- How many of you have been involved in an accident or mishap involving a horse and a gate?
- How many of these occurred at a workplace?
- How many of you know someone who has been involved in a horse handling or riding incident involving a gate?
- What was the result of the mishap?
- How many have had a “near miss” where if something had happened just a little different the outcome could have been life changing?
- How many have had difficulty in opening-closing a gate from horse back?
- What are some safety considerations for opening-closing a gate with a horse?



Discussion on Preventing workplace incidents through using hazard recognition principles, **Recognize-Evaluate-Manage**, risk

If possible use *a horse handling examples when discussing the following 3 steps*:

The 3 steps to recognize a workplace risk are:

1. Recognize the hazards. Questions to ask:

- What can cause injury?
- What is unsafe?
- Are there any unsafe work practices or conditions?
- Are there any hazards that are not obvious or immediate?
- Can I handle this situation?
- Can my horse handle what I am asking him to?

2. Evaluate the hazard. Questions to ask:

- Who is at risk?
- How often are they at risk?
- Why is it a hazardous situation?
- What could happen?
- What is creating the hazard?
- What injuries could occur?
- Are there any pressures that are creating an unsafe condition or behavior?
- Do I have to go this way?
- Can I take an alternate route?
- Is there a better way to do this?
- Should I dismount?
- How will this horse respond to this situation?



3. Manage the hazard. Questions to ask:

- What could be done to prevent the incident from happening?
- What training do I need to do with my horse to better prepare us for this task?
- Can you eliminate the hazard?
- Can you guard the hazard?
- Can you safe work practices-procedure?



Disc 1

Gates

RUN THE DVD

Select GATES from menu of Disc I

MENU OPTIONS: Gates	
On foot – fixed gate:	43 second clip
Single Rider- fixed gate:	2 min 47 sec clip
Multiple Riders- fixed gate:	50 sec clip
Single Rider-wire gate:	1 min 30 sec clip
Multiple Riders gate:	1 min 50 sec clip
Total running time:	7 min 50 sec



On Foot-Fixed Gate

Supplemental Information & Review

Riders Should:

- Be confident but relaxed
- Choose a path to the gate, be aware of slippery or difficult footing
- Approach a fixed gate making sure to keep other horses away
- Keep any other horses from pressing in or crowding you
- Watch for the potential of being stepped on
- Ensure that the lead shank is not too long that would allow the horse able to step on it
- **NEVER** wrap the lead shank around your hand or place your hand through the loops of shank,
- **NEVER** tie the lead shank to any part of your body
- **NEVER** bring treats or grain into an enclosure or field that has multiple horses in it
- **ALWAYS** bunch the loops in your hand
- As you approach the gate keep other horses back
- Open the gate in the direction of least resistance if possible away from you (some gate set ups make it impossible to have a hard and fast rule)

Discussion:

- Does anyone have any other advice to offer or any training tips?
- Can anyone relate an incident where they were hurt during the opening of a gate?



Single Rider-Fixed Gate

Supplemental Information & Review

Riders should:

- Choose an approach to the gate and consider how you will open it
- Don't reach for the gate as soon as you are near it
- Position your horse (get him into position and stand him there) and wait a second or two, this will help to avoid teaching your horse to anticipate the opening of the gate
- The horse needs to follow your direction and messages and not move when he feels you have had enough time at the gate
- If things do not work out you can dismount and work the gate from the ground
- Do not overextend yourself by trying to hold onto the gate with a horse that is moving away from the gate opening; many riders stretch, and strain, causing dislocation and falls from horses.
- Don't sacrifice your balance or your posture to the added pressure of traffic or approaching cattle which may increase the sense of urgency
- Remain calm and confident, give clean clear messages to the horse and do not become agitated: You can always dismount
- Don't be afraid to let go of the gate

Discussion:

- Does anyone have any other advice to offer or any training tips?
- Can anyone relate an incident where they were hurt during the opening of a gate?



Multiple Rider-Fixed Gate

Supplemental Information & Review

- When handling a gate from horseback with two or more riders leave lots of room between you and the rider who is handling the gate
- Sufficient spacing of 2-3 horse lengths will avoid jamming at the gate and reduce the possibility of being pinned against or struck by the gate
- Sufficient spacing also alleviates the possibility of the horses “piling up” on each other and creating an incident
- If you are having trouble handling the gate, dismount and work the gate from the ground
- If you are waiting for the gate to be opened don't hassel the gate opener or create additional stress through things you do or say
- When you move through the open gate get far enough through to allow for other riders and lots of room for the gate handler to close the gate
- ALWAYS leave at least one rider to wait for the gate handler
- Failure to do this may cause the horse to loose focus and follow the others. This makes the task much harder and increases the possibility of injury
- This can also create bad habits for the handler and the horse in hurrying to “catch up”
- If the gate handler is on a young horse it will be very difficult to keep his horse on task and can create hard to break bad habits
- If the gate handler has had to dismount it may be difficult remount a horse anxious not to be left behind

-oh yeah...it's just good cowboy etiquette!



Multiple Rider-Fixed Gate *(Cont'd.)*

Discussion:

- Does anyone have any other advice to offer or any training tips?
- Can anyone relate to an incident where they were hurt during the opening or closing of a gate?



One Rider-Wire Gate

Supplemental Information & Review

- When opening a wire gate alone one of the main concerns is keeping the horse from becoming entangled
- Control the gate with one hand and the horse with the other
- If you have dismounted don't wrap the reins around your hand in case he should become started, spook, jump or run off
- "Bunch" the reins in your hand
- Never tie the horse to yourself
- Keeping yourself between the gate and the horse should keep him out of trouble and allow you to properly, do the job
- Close the gate allowing the horse enough rein to be well out of the way
- Be sure to take a look back and see what the horse is doing, don't become focused only on the gate
- If you have a difficult gate and you need two hands:
 - Dismount and tie the horse out of the way
 - Work the gate open
 - Retrieve and lead the horse through the gate and retire out of the way
 - Close the gate
- A horse trained to "ground tie" will make this task much easier



One Rider-Wire Gate *(Cont'd.)*

If opening the wire gate from horseback:

- Be certain that your horse can perform this task
- Practice and train your horse for this in a controlled environment before attempting it in a pasture or remote setting
- Always carry wire cutters especially when working around wire
- Don't be in a hurry, gates are often opened this way and flung clear on the ground to allow the passage of cattle, make sure you have enough time

Discussion:

- Does anyone have any other advice to offer or any training tips?
- Can anyone relate to an incident where you were hurt or thrown from a horse during the opening of a gate?



Two Rider-Wire Gate

Supplemental Information & Review

- Prior to arriving decide which rider will open the gate

If dismounting:

- Pass your reins to the other rider
- Make sure that you allow plenty of room to open the gate
- The mounted rider needs to keep the horses well back from the gate while it is being opened
- Open the gate wide to allow the horses to easily pass through
- Don't ride through until the gate is fully open
- When you start to ride through the gate be sure that you have the attention of the horse you are holding this will help you to avoid being jerked back should that horse balk or pull back
- Move well through the gate
- To avoid spooking or startling the horses with actions or noises from the gate handler position yourself so that the horses can see what is happening behind them
- Moving well away from the gate will allow the dismounted rider to get back on the horse without getting caught up the fence.
- ALWAYS ensure that at least one rider waits for the dismounted gate handler.



Two Rider-Wire Gate *(Cont'd.)*

If opening the gate from horseback

- Give the gate handler lots of room
- Allow the gate to be completely opened and the opening clear of horse, rider and gate, before riding through
- If opening the gate and tossing it clear make certain you will be able to go through the gate without the risk of catching a horses hoof
- Don't be in a hurry
- Don't crowd the gate or the handler
- If it is not going well don't hesitate to dismount and work the gate from foot
- Never ride off before the gate handler has finished

Discussion:

- Does anyone have any other advice to offer or any training tips?
- Can anyone relate to an incident where they were hurt or thrown from a horse during the opening or closing of a gate?