



HORSEBACK RIDING

Step 1: IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS: Let's look at the hazards associated with horseback riding:

- Location (mountains/hills/beach)
- Ability (novice/experienced)
- Horse

Step 2: ASSESS THE RISK: Then assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and severity:

- Falls from cliffs, hills, uneven surfaces
- Loss of control of the situation could cause you to be bucked off or fall from the horse
- Is the horse trained, normally a riding horse

Step 3: MAKE RISK DECISIONS: Once you have identified the hazards and assessed the associated risk, you should develop risk control options. Start with the most serious risk first and select controls that will reduce the risk to a minimum consistent with mission accomplishment. Decide on some controls that can be employed to reduce or mitigate the hazards:

- Stay on marked trail or tell someone where you are going before heading out
- Stay within your limits
- If riding experience is low, then make sure you have a horse that has lots of experience

With selected controls in place, decide if the benefit outweighs the risk. If risk outweighs benefits or if assistance is required to implement controls, communicate with higher authority in the chain of command. You need to either accept the risk, avoid the risk, reduce the risk, or spread the risk. Do not make dumb decisions.

Step 4: IMPLEMENT CONTROLS: Once you select appropriate controls, implement them! A plan is only good if it is followed.

Step 5: SUPERVISE: As always, the situation is subject to change quickly. Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control. Horseback riding is a great way to have fun and we all deserve a break every now and then. Use risk management to make your riding experience memorable and safe. No one wants an outing to turn into a tragedy!

Member
Printed Rank/Rate/Name

Member Signature

Date