

# WORKING SAFELY WITH HORSES

If you work with horses,  
keep your people safe.



## WHO IS AT RISK?

New and inexperienced workers and non-workers are most at risk of injury. Inexperienced riders can come into contact with horses in a number of workplaces including on farms, while attending a horse related occupational course, at riding schools and equestrian centres, and at trail riding businesses.



## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY?

A person who conducts a business or undertaking has work health and safety obligations. This person is called a PCBU and if their activities involve interacting with horses, they have a legal duty to manage the related work health and safety risks.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The most common causes of injury are falls from a horse, bites, strikes or kicks. These risks can be managed and minimised with some basic steps.

One worker is hospitalised each day in Australia due to a horse related injury.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Provide a safe work environment that accounts for horse behaviour and movement.
- Choose the right horse for the job and for rider capability and prepare the horse accordingly.
- Develop safe-procedures which include assessing the rider and instructing those involved on how to work safely with horses in different situations.
- Make sure supervisors are competent and instructors are qualified and always use the right safety gear.





## MORE INFORMATION

Visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au) to view:

- Definition of a PCBU and workers.
- NSW codes of practice.
- Video safety alert – *Working safely with horses.*

Or for further information:

- *Guide to managing risks when new and inexperienced persons interact with horses* [safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/guide-managing-risks-interact-horses](http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/guide-managing-risks-interact-horses)
- The Australian Horse Industry Council: [horsecouncil.org.au/ahic/](http://horsecouncil.org.au/ahic/)
- Horse Safety Australia: [horsesafetyaustralia.com.au](http://horsesafetyaustralia.com.au)

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