

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION

All persons involved in competing at showing events being drivers, passengers, grooms, officials, spectators etc should keep safety foremost in mind. Having the horse under control at all times is not only a safeguard for a driver and his/her passengers but for everyone involved in the sport of carriage driving and the public. The following is a basic Accident Prevention List. Accidents will occasionally happen but most can be avoided by following these guidelines.

1. All harness should be in a sound condition and adjusted to fit the horse or pony and vehicle.
2. The vehicle should be in sound condition and of a type suitable for the class entered and horse/pony driven and the terrain to be covered.
3. Avoid putting a horse/pony into an environment which you believe may be frightening.
4. Before attending a group event eg rally or show etc, ensure that your horse is at ease driving with other turnouts.
5. When driving in company, never move off adjacent to another horse being put to without checking that the other driver is happy for you to do so.
6. When driving in company, leave sufficient distance from the vehicle in front to permit change of pace or direction.
7. After descending a slope remember that all turnouts behind must be clear of the slope before anyone increases pace.
8. At all times when driving, stay alert and look well ahead to anticipate and avert any problems.
9. Avoid driving on the highway at dawn/dusk and at night. If this cannot be avoided, reflective clothing and carriage stickers/reflectors are essential.
10. After lighting-up time, vehicles on the highway must have reflectors and red rear electric lamps – candle lamps do not provide sufficient lighting.
11. Your whip is an aid and should be in your hand - not the whip socket.
12. Never leave a turnout tied to a fixed object with a horse/pony still in the shafts with bridle or headcollar.
13. Never tie a turnout to another turnout.
14. Avoid dismounting from the vehicle unless you have someone at the horse's head.
15. Never remove the bridle/winkers until the horse is free of the vehicle.
16. Always approach a ridden or led horse with extreme care.
17. Always stop in a space, which allows you to exit easily at any time - especially applicable to groups.
18. Pass pedestrians and other horses, ridden or driven, carefully – not too close or too fast.
19. Driver should be in first and out last, always holding reins.
20. Due care must be taken at all times and let common sense prevail.
21. At no time shall a Judge ask a competitor to leave a turnout.