

Middle California Region USPC

Preparing For Your C-3 Test

Stable Management: Stable Safety

For the C-3 test, The USPC C-3 Standard requires that the candidate:

- **Discuss safety practices, both human and equine, around barn, including fire prevention, to include mounts stabled and at grass**

Some questions to consider for the C-3 test:

- Do you know the components of both a human and an equine first-aid kit?
- Do you know what stable safety rules are, and do you practice them?
- Can you discuss fire prevention for a stable?
- What do you do in case of fire?
- What safety equipment should every barn have?
- What are some unsafe practices or conditions that can be found at a barn?

First-aid training, which is available through your local Red Cross, can help you avoid accidents and teach you what to do and what not to do in case of an accident. You should have human and equine first-aid kits in your stable and in your trailer, but you must know how to use them properly.

Stable Safety Rules and Practices

- A neat stable area is a safer stable area. Keep trash picked up, tools hung up (sharp ends facing into the wall), and equipment such as wheelbarrows stored out of the way.
- Check stalls and aisles for nails or other objects sticking out where a pony (or a person) could bump into them and be hurt.
- When leading, grooming, or working with a horse, always handle him with a halter and lead rope. Never lead with just your hand on the halter.
- When handling a horse, keep your attention on him and keep his attention on you. Be aware of things that could spook him or that he could bump into or get hurt on, and keep a safe distance from other horses.
- No running, yelling, or rough play around the stable area; it upsets horses and can cause accidents.
- Keep other pets under control and out from underfoot. If a dog is tied on a long rope, it can wrap around a horse's legs and cause an accident. Teach your dog not to chase horses, or keep him away from the stable area.
- When leading a horse through a gate, into or out of a stall, open the gate wide and be sure the latch is not sticking out where it could catch him. If a gate closes on a horse or a gate latch catches on his blanket or tack, it may hurt or scare him.
- When turning a horse loose in a stall or pasture, close the gate and make him turn to face you before you let him go.
- The halter should usually be removed when your pony is left in a stall or in a pasture, with the halter and lead rope hung up close by. If a halter is left on in a stall or pasture, it must be of breakable leather or a safety halter with a breakaway crownpiece that would free him if he should get caught on something.

- Tie safely! (See USPC D Manual, pages 141-144, for more about safe tying.)
 - Never tie or cross-tie to the bit or bridle-only to a halter.
 - Tie with a quick-release knot, and use safety strings that will break in an emergency. Cross-ties should be equipped with safety strings.
 - Tie in a safe place (not where the horse could catch his leg in a fence), to a solid, immovable object, at the height of the horse's back. When tying to a fence, tie to a solid post, not to a rail.
 - Tie with about 18 inches from knot to halter. Don't leave so much slack that the horse could get his leg caught over the rope.
 - Don't tie a horse at all unless you know he stands quietly while tied.
 - Don't leave a horse unattended when tied or cross-tied.

Fire Prevention

Fire is the most serious danger around a stable. Stable areas are full of materials such as hay and bedding that catch fire easily and burn very fast. Everyone around a stable must take fire prevention seriously and must know what to do in case of fire. Post the fire department phone number in the barn and next to the telephone. It's important to work out emergency procedures (what you would do in case of a fire) and to have a fire drill.

Here are some basic rules for fire prevention:

- **NO SMOKING in or around the stable area -- by anyone, ever!**
- Have adequate fire extinguishers (at least one inside and one outside the barn), know how to use them, check them regularly, and make sure they are properly charged. Have a faucet and hose outside the barn as well as inside.
- Keep aisles clear and doors free to open in case of an emergency. In winter, do not let snow or ice build up so that doors cannot be opened. Keep a halter and lead rope hanging on every stall.
- Keep aisles swept, trash picked up, and beams and rafters free from cobwebs. Don't leave piles of loose hay or bedding around.
- Cut down brush and weeds around the barn.
- Unplug electrical appliances when they are not being used and before leaving the stable. Avoid using hotplates or heaters in the stable.
- If possible, store hay in a building separate from the stable. . Keep manure piles away from wooden buildings; they generate heat. Hay can cause a fire if it is baled or stored damp and packed too tightly.
- Never store gasoline, kerosene, flammable liquids such as paints and thinners, or oily rags in the barn. Do not park motor vehicles like tractors or lawnmowers in the barn.
- Have the barn wiring checked by an electrician to be sure it is safe and meets local fire laws. Wiring must be protected against being chewed by horses or by rats. Lightbulbs should be enclosed in explosion-proof glass cages. Never overload electrical circuits.

In case of fire:

- First, sound the alarm. Get people out first!
- Call the fire department
- Evacuate the horses only if you can do so safely
- Fight the fire (using fire extinguishers) only if you can do so safely