

Assist the trek leader during a horse trek

Overview

This standard is about assisting the trek leader during a horse trek to monitor the safety and comfort of clients and horses, as well as maintaining communications with all on the trek.

The work described in this standard would be carried out following agreement with a supervisor about the responsibilities and methods of work.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of animal health and welfare and health and safety in connection with this activity.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards in the workplace.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimises stress to the horse, and risk to yourself and others
3. assist the trek leader during a horse trek by continuously monitoring riders, horses and conditions, according to agreed procedures
4. report hazardous situations promptly to the trek leader according to agreed procedures
5. give information to clients at appropriate times and frequencies including about hazardous situations, points of local interest and the progress of the trek
6. carry out the trek leader's instructions at all times
7. follow agreed procedures for riding on the road at all times, in line with riding and road safety legislation
8. put a horse on lead while mounted and ride and lead as directed
9. use safe techniques and control while riding and leading
10. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress, and risk to yourself and others
3. the safe conditions for trekking and how to monitor conditions
4. the implications of incorrect horse/rider combinations
5. how weather conditions affect different terrains
6. the reasons for continuous monitoring of trek members
7. how to recognise clients in distress
8. how to recognise problems with horses
9. how the Highway Code and other countryside/access codes apply to trekkers
10. the methods of effective communication while on the trek
11. how and when information on points of interest, progress and riding control should be given
12. how to put a horse on lead while mounted and how to ride and lead
13. how a client's medical conditions may affect his or her ability on the trek
14. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
15. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Give the following information to clients:

- potentially hazardous situations
- points of local interest
- the progress of the trek

Monitor and report on the following conditions:

- weather
- terrain
- client health
- client attitude
- horse welfare
- any hazards to the riders and horses

Carry out the following activities:

- put a horse on lead rein while mounted
- lead a horse correctly and safely, minimizing any risks

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