



What a month! With the anniversary of all of us making it through one year of COVID restrictions back in March, I'm sure we were all looking forward to a relatively normal summer. And yet all we heard is the "new normal" one with restrictions, masks, fires, and smoke / air quality risks.

Throughout the fire scares we've had over the last couple of weeks, the club has been an incredible resource having received multiple enquiries on stabling evacuees, emergency trailering, short term stays while highways were closed. As much as we hate to see our community go through yet MORE stress, we are very appreciative that we have this facility to be there for those in need.

What we do see is a trend of people waiting to haul their animals out when the evacuation order is in place. I cannot stress enough that this is too late. After speaking with many emergency personnel, as well as working in that industry and thriving despite the 2003 and 2009 fires I believe I can say with some experience, that during the evacuation alert is when you need to start moving out your animals.

During an order which I believe we can all see usually occurs in the dark of the night when the air support has had to be pulled off, is not the time to be trying to get your horses off your property. **ESPECIALLY if you either:**

- a) don't own a trailer and are relying on others or,
- b) have more horses on your property than you have trailers for.

During an order is when your adrenaline is peaking, you're thinking of your human family, your four-legged family, and your lifetime of material goods you've been collecting for decades and trying to decide which one is

going to "make the cut" into your vehicle. This is NOT the time when you want to be dealing with your fight or flight 1800 lb. animal. And certainly not if they are loading into an unfamiliar trailer with a stranger. During an order your friends and family are not able to cross lines to get in to help you.

Hopefully we have seen the last of our large fires and more of the cooler fall weather and some rain clouds. On the plan for next late spring will be either an in person or virtual learning session on fire preparedness, specific and open to all local horse owners. Even if you think you have your ducks in order this will be an education that is important for all of us and the ability to do some emergency networking.

My final note on these fires - I want to put out an enormous thank you to the following people: Deanna Forder-Snider, Sebastien Devrainne, Danica Sandercock, Kathy Gilleran, Amy and Meghan Russo, Amanda Verkerk, and Diamond H Tack. These people came forward directly to reach out to assist, whether it be transportation, hay, feed, emergency ID tags and the words we always want to hear at this time "what do you need" ... I cannot thank each of you enough for being a rock in an unstable time! To quote the musical icon Queen... The show must go on!! And thanks to some cooler nights and even the very occasional shower, we hope this is another fire season under our belts. I am sure we are looking forward to a healthy and bright fall sky with more fun events...

The award of the 2026 Summer Games to Kelowna is exciting news and in turn provides the great opportunity for the Kelowna Riding Club to host the equine games associated with this incredible sports event! This will come up quickly, but I am sure that our membership will be an amazing resource and support as we continue to build a club that will be a showcase for this level of event!

In the short term we have some fun events planned... we continue to build new jump courses throughout the month, we have some Working Equitation fun events happening, as well as an upcoming clinic, there is the Sept 11th horse show specific for new riders of all ages and multi-discipline, and we are just over a month away, Saturday, October 2nd from the opportunity for each of us to clear out our tack rooms and closets and sell off our old tack and make room and earn some funds for new or new to you tack! And this doesn't include all the times the club is booked for

closed events like the Gymkhana, Leahona Rowland Clinic and the AQHA Novice event.

I encourage each of our members to continue to send us photos of yourselves or your clients that are KRC members so we can add to our members photo page. I saw a great representation of our local community riders (and KRC members) down at Thunderbird and would love to see some of those incredible shots of our riders doing what they enjoy best! We would love to see the photos of our members on the grounds riding, but we are more than just a surveyed measurement on the ground - we are a community and want to celebrate our members within our community wherever they go!

The KRC Board of Directors wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to all KRC members, volunteers and our sponsors who reached out to us during the recent fire crisis with offers of trailering, feed and supplies to assist those that were displaced. In addition, we know that some of our local Boarding & Training Barns took in horses as well as our members. How lucky we all are to be part of such a responsive and caring equestrian community! ❤️❤️❤️

Looking for Boarding or training? Be sure to visit our [Boarding and Training facilities](#) area of the website for one of our KRC sponsors.



