

RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES TECHNICAL BULLETIN

HAYRIDES

The following items should be carefully considered when planning a hayride event. This list contemplates hayrides that are powered by a tractor or a licensed and inspected motor vehicle.

Supervision - An adequate number of responsible adult(s) should be present on the wagon. Riders should be given clear safety instructions prior to the hayride. Instructions should include remaining seated keeping hands/arms/legs inside the wagon at all times (a sign should be posted in the seating area or wagon area also). Rowdy conduct should be corrected immediately. Signs indicating the rules of conduct should also be posted in the waiting area and in the seating area of the wagon.

Equipment - The tractor (or pick-up truck) and the wagon should be in good repair. The wagon should be clean and equipped with side walls with 42 inches and height and openings not greater than four inches. Loose hay should not be used. Two wagons should not be hitched together. It is highly desirable to use a chain as a secondary backup to connect the wagon to the tractor/pickup. The pulling vehicle should be large enough to safely pull the loaded weight of the wagon. The wagon or the loading/unloading area should be provided with steps to assist passengers onto/off the wagon.

Driver - The driver should be experienced in driving the tractor/pick up while pulling a wagon. The driver should have a written checklist of all safety precautions and review them prior to beginning the hayride. The driver(s) should be responsible adult(s) over the age of 25.

Route - The route should be selected in advance and fully inspected for hazards. The driver(s) should practice driving the route with the wagon prior to the hayride. Avoid the use of busy roads or roads that are too bumpy or have steep grades.

Seating - No rider should be seated in such a manner than any part of the body can extend past the sides, back, or front of the wagon. Riders should remain seated inside the wagon at all times. Arms, head, and legs should be kept inside the wagon.

Lighting and visibility - Lighting is a critical safety factor for hayrides that occur at night. The tractor pulling the wagon should have the headlights on, the warning hazard lights on, and lights on the back that illuminate the wagon. The vehicle following the wagon should have its headlights on the wagon. Adult volunteer(s) riding on the wagon should have flashlights ready for use if needed.

If the route is on any public roadway (for any portion of the trip) a trail car can follow the wagon at a safe distance with the headlights on the wagon. The car should have on its hazard lights. This car provides additional protection for the wagon from a rear collision, and serves as a form of back-up transportation if the tractor should have mechanical problems. The driver can also serve as a rear spotter to monitor the back of the wagon. The trailing driver must maintain a safe distance behind the wagon at all times.

Speed - The speed should be kept low. This may pose a problem if a main road is used and cars are backing up behind the wagon, and then try to pass quickly. For this reason main roads should be avoided.

Communication - The driver, a supervisor on the wagon, and the driver of the car following the wagon should use two-way radios or other forms of direct communication to stay in communication with one another. The driver should have a spotter that can relay information as warranted, such as the need to stop. A cell phone should be available in case a need arises for emergency assistance.

Emergency Procedures - A first aid kit should be present along with individual(s) trained in rendering first aid in case an injury should occur. Organizers should have an emergency plan in place with phone numbers that may be needed.

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Required Forms:

Unaccompanied minors: signed parental consent;

Vehicle Insurance if it is a private, non-commercial vehicle operator: proof of current insurance on the pulling vehicle of the wagon with minimum limits of \$100,000/\$300,000.

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