

Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

The following is a partial listing of incidents involving horses used in carriage operations. Contact PETA for documentation.

September 14, 2006/New York, New York: After collapsing in Central Park, Juliet, a horse who was used to pull carriages in NYC for almost two decades, was whipped repeatedly by the carriage driver in an attempt to get her to stand up. A horrified crowd gathered and begged the carriage driver to stop beating her. Juliet was eventually hauled away in a police trailer to her stable, where she died early the next morning.

May 20, 2006/Chattanooga, Tennessee: A horse pulling a carriage was spooked by buses and collided with a car stopped at a traffic light. The horse reared up, stomping on the roof of the car, shattering the back window and crushing the trunk and hood. The horse suffered leg injuries.

May 5, 2006/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage through Manhattan was spooked and ran amok, narrowly missing several vehicles before colliding with and overturning a moving car. The driver of the car was hospitalized and witnesses claimed that the horse sustained a gash near his or her neck.

April 28, 2006/New York, New York: A young horse being trained to pull carriages was suddenly spooked and bolted, colliding with a 71-year-old bicyclist in Central Park. The bicyclist had to be hospitalized, and the carriage driver jumped out of the vehicle during the incident, injuring his knee.

January 2, 2006/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage in Manhattan was suddenly spooked and ran, colliding with an automobile. The horse had to be euthanized because of severe injuries, and the carriage driver was hospitalized in critical condition with a fractured skull.

September 30, 2005/Boston, Massachusetts: A horse who was being used to pull carriages in downtown Boston collapsed in the street, where the animal, according to reports, “clapped the pavement with [his or her] hooves trying desperately to stand up.” A veterinarian did not arrive on the scene until more than two hours later.

June 22, 2005/Chicago, Illinois: A spooked horse reared up, overturned the carriage he was pulling, and threw the driver into the street. The horse galloped down the street, hitting at least one car before being stopped. One witness said, “He was really scared, scared to death, you could see it.” The driver was taken to the hospital with a broken leg.

May 14, 2005/New York, New York: Two horses broke free from the carriage that they were pulling after a hit-and-run collision with a van. The driver was thrown from the rig and landed on his head.

August 28, 2004/Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania: A horse pulling a carriage was severely injured after being hit by a hit-and-run driver.

September 5, 2004/Hamilton, Virginia: A horse pulling a carriage was impaled and killed by part of it after it was hit by a car. Two other horses suffered scrapes, and a fourth horse sustained leg injuries.

September 5, 2004/Brewster, Massachusetts: Two people were hospitalized with life-threatening injuries after several passengers were thrown from a horse-drawn carriage at a state park on Cape Cod. Two other riders had less serious injuries.

December 22, 2003/Kansas City, Missouri: The driver of a horse-drawn carriage carrying six passengers was hospitalized after an accident left him with a broken leg.

November 30, 2003/Louisville, Kentucky: The driver of a horse-drawn carriage was injured after a car “clipped” the back of the rig. The accident was at least the third involving horse-drawn carriages in two years. Two horses were killed in 2002 after vehicle accidents.

October 27, 2003: An article in *Fortune* magazine detailed the financial ramifications of animal-related traffic accidents (including horse-drawn carriage incidents), which cost \$1.2 billion annually, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

October 25, 2003/New York, New York: Four people got the “scare of their lives” when a horse pulling a carriage suddenly bolted down the

street and barreled into another carriage, causing both rigs to flip over. Four people were treated for injuries.

October 5, 2003/Las Vegas, Nevada: An article in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* about transportation issues in the city detailed an accident in which a team of horses pulling a carriage bolted and threw the two passengers, leaving one in a coma. The county subsequently banned horse-drawn carriages.

September 5, 2003/Beaufort, Pennsylvania: A woman was injured as she attempted to board a horse-drawn carriage when the horse became spooked, started running, and dragged the woman for more than 100 feet through a parking lot.

August 8, 2003/Apple Valley, California: The driver of a horse-drawn hearse lost control of the horse during a practice run and jumped from the rapidly moving carriage. The horse and carriage ran into a wall and some cacti. The driver broke both of his arms and one of his legs and the horse required stitches to the face, as well as removal of cactus spines.

July 14, 2003/Covington, Ohio: The horses used to pull a carriage became spooked, causing the carriage to topple over onto the carriage driver. Once the carriage was righted, the driver continued on, only to be fatally injured when the horses toppled the carriage once again just a few blocks later.

April 28, 2003/Honolulu, Hawaii: A horse-drawn carriage carrying tourists flipped over, slightly injuring three of the nine passengers. The horses spooked and tipped over the wagon, spilling the passengers and driver into the road.

October 30, 2002/Pennsylvania: An article in the *Harrisburg Patriot* reported that Pennsylvania had 371 horse-and-buggy crashes, killing 18 people and injuring 442, from 1996 through 2000.

October 11, 2002/Belding, Indiana: The parents of a 4-year-old boy killed while riding in a horse-drawn carriage filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the carriage service and the city of Belding. The boy, his siblings, and his mother were riding in a Christmas carriage event when the horse spooked and reared, then bolted. The boy was thrown off and run over. The parents were seeking more than \$1 million.

July 8, 2002/Madison, Wisconsin: After occupants of a passing car threw firecrackers at a horse pulling a carriage, the animal broke free and raced through 10 blocks of traffic before stopping. At one point, a passerby jumped into the carriage but was thrown when the horse swerved and the carriage struck a curb.

January 22, 2002/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage through traffic became frightened and bolted. The carriage got wedged between two cars, damaging them and several others. The horse had to be tranquilized, and it took several people to free the animal and the carriage.

December 8, 2001/Belding, Indiana: A 4-year-old boy fell out of a horse-drawn carriage when the animal bolted. The boy was run over by the carriage and died soon after at an area hospital. Another passenger sustained minor injuries. City officials said that the horse had been spooked by a passing car. The carriage company suspended operations after the incident.

November 26, 2001/New York,

New York: A taxi cab collided with a horse-drawn carriage in South Central Park, startling the horse and injuring the carriage driver.

July 27, 2001/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A spooked horse ran amok in downtown traffic, pulling the carriage into two cars before it tipped and struck a third vehicle. The carriage driver, an occupant of one of the cars, and the horse were injured.

July 13, 2001/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A horse broke free from a carriage in downtown traffic. The carriage then ran into three cars before falling over. Two tourists, who jumped out of the carriage just before it toppled over, were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. This and the July 27 incident prompted a member of the mayor's Animal Advisory Committee to voice concerns about horse-drawn carriage operations. He stated, in part, "Horses and traffic like this don't mix."

December 1, 2000/Old Bridge, New Jersey: Several members of a wedding party were injured when a horse stumbled, causing the carriage that they were riding in to crash onto its side. The horse trampled the carriage driver, who was critically injured. A 6-year-old boy was taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation, and others suffered cuts and bruises.

November 2000/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage broke free, bolted, and struck a car while galloping down the street. The horse tripped and fell to the ground, injuring a leg.

September 18, 2000/Chicago, Illinois: A horse bolted from a wedding in Lincoln Park after being stung by a bee, breaking free from the carriage after it became wedged between two cars. The horse and a pedestrian were injured.

August 27, 2000/New York, New York: A horse-drawn carriage turning a corner in Central Park tilted past its balance point and suddenly slammed onto its side. Four tourists were strapped to backboards and taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital.

April 26, 2000/New York, New York: A horse in a carriage-ride stable escaped and ran down the street, creating havoc as drivers slammed on their brakes to avoid hitting the animal. A traffic control officer avoided serious injury by jumping back when the horse was within three feet of her. The horse narrowly missed being hit by a bus.

March 30, 2000/Pullman, Washington: Three students were injured—one seriously enough to require hospitalization—and a horse was badly injured when the animal bolted down city streets for “no obvious reason.”

December 24, 1999/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse collapsed and lay moaning in the street for several hours until a veterinarian arrived to perform euthanasia.

December 24, 1999/Dover, Delaware: One person was partially paralyzed and two others injured after a truck ran into the carriage in which they were riding.

December 13, 1999/Sarnia, Ontario: During pre-Christmas festivities, a woman was dragged to death by horses she was unhitching after a wagon ride. The horses bolted, and the driver became entangled in a harness and was thrown into a hydro pole and killed. The woman had spent the day offering rides at a city park. Just three weeks earlier in Sarnia, a different pair of horses had run amok, denting cars.

December 7, 1999/Eastham, Massachusetts: Twenty Christmas festival participants were injured when a pickup truck rammed into the horse-drawn wagon that they were riding in, tipping it over. Some of the riders, including several small children, were trapped beneath the wagon.

November 27, 1999/Holland, Pennsylvania: A man was injured when his horse-drawn buggy collided with a car. Both vehicles sustained damage.

November 24, 1999/New Orleans, Louisiana: Three carriage horses escaped their barn and ran through the streets of New Orleans before one struck a bus and broke the windshield.

August 10, 1999/Helen, Georgia: The driver of a carriage was injured after a spooked horse ran away from a carriage giving rides in downtown Helen, Georgia. Police officials were not certain what spooked the horse, but the driver apparently was thrown from the carriage and dragged.

August 5, 1999/New York, New York: A runaway carriage horse jumped onto the sidewalk, injuring two elderly pedestrians and hitting a car.

July 4, 1999/Salt Lake City, Utah: A horse pulling a carriage at Heritage Park ran amok; nine people were hospitalized.

June 28, 1999/New York City, New York: A hit-and-run driver crashed into a horse-drawn carriage, breaking the driver’s jaw and sending the horse galloping down the street. The horse was hit by an oncoming car.

May 30, 1999/Baltimore, Maryland: A carriage horse was killed by an oncoming car after the

driver ran a red light. Another horse pulling a carriage was spooked by the incident and bolted down eight blocks, injuring the passenger.

April 7, 1999/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Two horses pulling carriages collided, throwing three passengers 10 feet into the air and out into the street.

April 4, 1999/Orlando, Florida: A speeding car hit a carriage being pulled by a horse, prompting the terrified animal to run through the streets, injuring four bystanders.

February 19, 1999/Cincinnati, Ohio: Four people—including three children—were injured when a truck collided with the carriage in which they were riding.

January 8, 1999/New York City, New York: A horse was fatally electrocuted while pulling a carriage.

1999/New York, New York: An “out-of-control” horse jumped up on the sidewalk and struck and injured two elderly pedestrians.

1999/Apple Valley, California: A horse pulling an old-fashioned hearse became spooked and ran through a parade, injuring two people and damaging four vehicles.

December 14, 1998/Milwaukee, Wisconsin: A horse pulling a carriage was hit by a car, suffering fatal injuries. Police killed the horse by pumping four shotgun blasts into the animal. The carriage driver suffered neck and back injuries, and the driver of the car was also treated for injuries.

October 13, 1998/Sheridan, Indiana: One man was injured when a train whistle spooked his draft horses. The horses ran full speed through three four-way stop signs before finally slamming into a

tree.

July 20, 1998/Duluth, Minnesota: Two carriages, along with their passengers and drivers, overturned.

July 10, 1998/Markesan, Wisconsin: Four people were injured after a horse was spooked.

April 29, 1998/New York City, New York: A horse broke his halter, ran into a busy street, and was killed by an oncoming car. The driver of the car was treated for back injuries.

January 17, 1998/New York, New York: A spooked horse ran wild, overturning the carriage that he was pulling.

1998/New York, New York: A horse ran amok in Times Square, but the two passengers jumped to safety just seconds before the carriage slammed into a light pole

November 24, 1997/New York, New York: A runaway horse in Central Park struck and injured a pedestrian. The carriage also damaged a car.

November 18, 1997/Dallas, Texas: Passing motorcycles spooked a horse, causing the horse to crash into a vehicle. The driver was thrown from the carriage, and the horse suffered a cut that required stitches.

September 12, 1997/Mechanicsville, Maryland: A woman and her three children were injured when a van collided with their horse-drawn carriage. The spooked horse broke free and ran a quarter mile before being hit and killed by a car. The family had to be airlifted to a local hospital for treatment.

September 4, 1997/New York, New York: An elderly woman was

seriously injured and eight other people hurt when two carriages overturned after the horses were spooked by a passing car.

August 12, 1997/Boston, Massachusetts: A horse pulling a carriage had to be euthanized after the carriage was hit by a truck. The horse's body was punctured by shattered wooden shafts. The driver was hospitalized with a fractured ankle and other injuries. The driver of the truck left the scene without stopping.

July 2, 1997/Kingsport, Tennessee: A newlywed couple riding in a horse-drawn carriage was injured when they were rear-ended by a car. Both riders were hospitalized, one for serious injuries.

May 1, 1997/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage tripped, then died while struggling to get up.

December 20, 1996/Kansas City, Missouri: A pregnant horse collapsed in the middle of a street while pulling a carriage and later died. The horse was thought to be going into labor.

November 11, 1996/Cocoa Beach, Florida: Newlyweds riding in a horse-drawn carriage were injured when the carriage was rear-ended by a car. The couple and the driver of the carriage all required treatment at a local hospital. The horse suffered a broken leg and was euthanized.

October 1996/Dallas, Texas: A carriage horse ran into a crowd. Eleven people were injured.

June 4, 1996/Branson, Missouri: A 10-year-old boy was killed when a horse-drawn carriage overturned, throwing 11 passengers to the ground.

1996/Denver, Colorado: Two horses pulling a carriage were spooked and took off down the street for six blocks before crashing into a light pole. The passengers were forced to leap off the carriage before it crashed. One horse suffered a broken eye socket, and the carriage was destroyed.

May 7, 1995/New York, New York: Twelve children and four adults were injured when a horse powering a ride at a carnival "went berserk," throwing passengers off the ride and running over them.

October 31, 1994/Frederick, Maryland: Seven people were injured when the horse pulling the carriage in which they were riding bolted down the street. The carriage sideswiped five cars before overturning and throwing the passengers out.

October 1994/Dallas, Texas: A driver was killed when a car slammed into her carriage.

August 22, 1994/Branford, Connecticut: Thirteen people were injured when two horses pulling a carriage were spooked and took off down the street, crashing into a parked car.

April 29, 1994/New York, New York: A dietary error led to cramps so severe that a horse had to be euthanized after collapsing in Central Park.

December 19, 1993/Plantation, Florida: Two horses pulling a wagon ran out of control, injuring all 12 people aboard. One of the injured riders was run over by the wheels of the wagon and hospitalized in serious condition. Both horses suffered serious cuts to their legs.

November 23, 1992/Salt Lake

City, Utah: A horse pulling a carriage was hit from behind and thrown to the ground along with four passengers. The panicked horse bolted down the street and was then hit by another car.

September 9, 1991/Cleveland, Ohio: A horse pulling a carriage bolted and ran onto a car, falling on the car's roof. The driver of the car and the horse were both killed.

September 9, 1991/Houston, Texas: Two people were hospitalized when the carriage in which they were riding went out of control and hit a police car. The horse suffered extensive injuries. The driver of the carriage said at the scene, "[H]e's a hard horse to control," because he had already been hit by cars on three previous occasions.

August 25, 1991/Central Park,

New York: A horse had to be euthanized after suffering crippling leg cramps.

May 15, 1990/Manhattan, New York: A horse pulling a carriage was fatally injured after being trapped between a bus and a car.

December 4, 1989/Kansas City, Missouri: The driver of a carriage was injured after the horses bolted and struck a car stopped in traffic as well as four parked vehicles.

September 4, 1989/Baltimore, Maryland: A driver of a horse-drawn carriage was killed when the carriage was hit by a car.

August 1, 1989/Columbus, Ohio: A horse took off down the street, pulling a driverless carriage behind him. The owner of the carriage said, "When a horse gets spooked, you have to let him run until he stops."

The business had been involved in at least three other accidents since it began operating in 1981.

May 23, 1988/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage fell into a hole in the street.

November 9, 1986/New York, New York: Frightened by a passing car, a horse took off down the street, crashing into a building.

December 9, 1985/New York, New York: Two horses pulling a carriage were spooked by a passing car, causing them to run out of control. Four people were injured and a car's windshield was smashed when one of the horses jumped onto the hood. The horse was euthanized.