

# Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

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



In a 2011 poll conducted by the television show *Extra*, 90 percent of responders agreed carriage rides should be banned.

**July 28, 2011/New York, New York:** Three tourists and a carriage driver were hurt when a taxi rear-ended a horse-drawn carriage near Central Park. One passenger was thrown to the sidewalk, and the driver was in critical condition with a head injury. The horse was knocked to the ground, and the carriage fell on top of him.

**July 3, 2011/Toronto, Ontario:** While pulling a carriage, a pair of horses became spooked, bolted, and ran over the carriage's owner before the carriage flipped over. The rig's owner suffered broken ribs and was taken to the hospital, and two passengers were also taken to the hospital. One of the horses was injured.

**March 20, 2011/Natchez, Mississippi:** A horse-drawn carriage driver and several passengers sustained injuries when a car rear-ended the carriage, operated by Southern Carriage Tours. The driver was ejected and fell to the street, injuring his leg. The startled horse panicked and took off running. Some of the passengers suffered cuts from being thrown around in the carriage.

**February 12, 2011/Ottawa, Ontario:** Four people, including a 3-year-old girl, were injured after they were hit by a horse running through a park. The horse had been giving rides at a winter carnival.

The operator later found the horse lying on a sidewalk. The toddler and another bystander were taken to the hospital, and two others were treated at the scene.

**November 3, 2010/New York, New York:** A horse was hit by a city bus in midtown Manhattan during rush hour. Witnesses say the horse looked traumatized, but after exchanging words with the bus driver, the carriage continued on its way.

**October 3, 2010/Palm Springs, California:** A horse was injured after a car smashed into the carriage she was pulling.

**May 11, 2010/New York, New York:** Witnesses reported seeing a collision between a cab and a carriage.

**May 1, 2010/New York, New York:** Witnesses reported that a horse pulling a carriage became spooked and crashed near Central Park South after running against traffic and sideswiping several cars. The horse reportedly appeared to be injured, and several emergency vehicles responded to the scene.

**July 31, 2010/Eureka, California:** The driver and owner of Old Town Carriage Company was hospitalized with serious injuries after the horse who was pulling the carriage became spooked—possibly by a passing skateboarder—and took off running. The carriage crashed into a parked car and a wooden post, tossing the driver to the ground. One passenger complained of leg pain, and the horse, Cinnamon, also suffered injuries.

**July 4, 2010/Bellevue, Iowa:** A woman was killed and multiple children were trampled and injured when two horses who were pulling a carriage in the Heritage Days parade became spooked and took off, dragging the carriage through crowds of people at a speed of up to 30 miles per hour. The woman was ejected from the vehicle.

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**May 31, 2010/Thunder Bay, Ontario:** A 4-year-old girl was killed after a horse became startled and bolted while being petted by the child and other kindergartners, who were on a field trip. The wheel of the carriage went over the toddler's body. Several other children were also injured.

Collisions between carriages and automobiles have occurred in nearly every location where horse-drawn carriages are allowed.

**April 19, 2010/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Five people were injured—including one man whose ear was partially ripped off—and five horses were injured when a car crashed into a horse-drawn carriage, triggering a chain-reaction crash involving two other carriages.

**April 16, 2010/Atlanta, Georgia:** Four riders were seriously injured—one critically—when the carriage in which they were riding was totaled after a car ran into it.

**April 10, 2010/New Bern, North Carolina:** At least three people were transported to the hospital after a car rear-ended a horse-drawn carriage that was being operated by Carolina Carriage Tours. The collision pushed the carriage into the horse, causing the horse to bolt. The horse was also injured.

**February 13, 2010/Fort Worth, Texas:** The driver of a horse-drawn carriage suffered a fractured eye socket, three broken bones in his back, a bruised lung, and a shoulder injury after his carriage was hit by a car in a hit-and-run collision.

**January 23, 2010/Mesa, Arizona:** A man was seriously injured and two horses were hurt after a barking dog startled four horses while they were

pulling a carriage. The front two horses took off running, and the back two horses stumbled and were dragged along with the carriage approximately 75 feet down the street. The driver suffered serious road-rash injuries, some down to the bone. The back two horses also suffered road rash. A motorcycle driver was also injured when he had to lay down his motorcycle in an attempt to get out of the way of the out-of-control rig.

**December 27, 2009/Canandaigua, New York:** A horse was euthanized and four people were injured after a car hit a carriage from behind and all four passengers were ejected. Two were airlifted to a local hospital. The carriage was demolished.

**December 27, 2009/Sacramento, California:** A car struck a horse-drawn carriage from behind, upending the carriage and snapping it in half. The two riders were treated at a hospital after they and the driver were ejected from the carriage. The horse sustained leg injuries.

**December 25, 2009/Covington, Ohio:** A car crashed into a horse-drawn carriage, injuring the carriage driver and destroying the carriage. According to police, the carriage driver suffered a “fairly severe head injury” and was taken to the hospital. A passenger suffered minor injuries. This was the second carriage accident in Covington in one week.

**December 23, 2009/Covington, Ohio:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was startled and took off, flipping the carriage and ejecting the driver. The horse broke free and ran through the neighborhood before being recaptured.

**December 15, 2009/Stanley, Virginia:** Fourteen people on a holiday ride in a horse-drawn carriage were hurt when a car slammed into the carriage, ejecting the driver and causing the horses to run for 100 yards before hitting an electric pole. All

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14 people were taken to the hospital, including one who had to be airlifted.

**December 6, 2009/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:**

A horse who was pulling carriages for holiday rides was startled by a bus and took off down the street, hitting a parked car and injuring the driver, who was standing nearby.

**November 20, 2009/Beachwood, Ohio:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was spooked by a high-school band and ran through a barricade and over a curb, colliding with two cars before breaking away from the carriage and taking off at a full gallop. The driver was injured after being pulled to the ground while trying to regain control.

**October 8, 2009/Charleston, South Carolina:**

A horse pulling a carriage for Carolina Polo and Carriage Co. fell after his leg became caught up in the carriage. The horse suffered abrasions but was put back to work the next day.

**September 23, 2009/Chicago, Illinois:** Two drivers who had worked for J.C. Cutters Horse Drawn Carriages were convicted of mistreating horses. Six horses were seized earlier in the year after animal-control officers repeatedly found horses who were coated with dirt and whose hooves were covered in manure as well as horses who were living in stalls in which manure was mixed with hay. The city had previously denied J.C. Cutters' application for a 2009 license to conduct carriage rides.

**September 19, 2009/New York, New York:** A cab plowed into a horse-drawn carriage near Central Park. Both drivers were taken to the hospital.

**August 29, 2009/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:**

A horse was injured after crashing and falling to the ground. The carriage collided with a pole.

**August 29, 2009/Québec, Canada:** Three children were ejected from a runaway carriage and suffered

minor injuries after a team of ponies panicked and took off down the street during a community parade. The cart hit a car, throwing the driver under the rig and severing his leg below the knee.

**August 29, 2009/Salt Lake City, Utah:** A horse who was pulling a carriage containing a family of seven became startled and ran down the street before being stopped. The driver exited the rig, but the horse became frightened again and took off, dragging the driver until he was forced to let go while the horse continued running. A police officer riding a bike attempted to intervene, but his bike became tangled with the carriage and he fell down while trying to stop the animal. The carriage came to a stop two blocks later when it hit a parked car. Both the driver and the police officer suffered minor injuries, and the carriage and the officer's bike were both totaled.

**August 7, 2009/Santa Barbara, California:**

Several people were injured during the city's Old Spanish Days Fiesta parade when a horse pulling a carriage became spooked, ran out of control for nearly two blocks, and collided with another carriage. Both horses collapsed, and one lost consciousness and received aid from a veterinarian before reviving.

**August 6, 2009/Savannah, Georgia:** A horse pulling a carriage for the Historic Savannah Carriage Tours Co. became spooked, ran into traffic, and was hit by a car. A dog traveling in the carriage was injured and was taken to a veterinarian for treatment.

**August 1, 2009/Portland, Oregon:** A 23-year-old horse pulling a carriage in a wedding procession died after falling and breaking his leg.

**July 14, 2009/St. Augustine, Florida:** A 10-year-old girl was ejected from a Ripley's Sightseeing Train that hydroplaned and hit a car during a downpour. She and two other girls, aged 10 and 11, were taken to the hospital.

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**July 4, 2009/San Antonio, Texas:** A horse became spooked by a bus's air brakes and took off running through the downtown streets. The driver was thrown from the rig, and the horse broke free of the carriage and ran away. Later that day, the same horse lost balance after the carriage hit a curb on the way back to the barn, causing the rig to flip over. The driver was ejected.

**July 2009/Charleston, South Carolina:** Charleston officials issued the Carolina Polo and Carriage Co. six citations for various issues, including providing its horses the lowest quality feed and hay, submitting altered medical records, and using bleach to clean stalls (urine in the stalls produces ammonia, which, when mixed with bleach, can create toxic gas). The city issued five more citations after the company failed to meet deadlines to bring the operation up to code.

**July 2009/St. Augustine, Florida:** A case was settled for an undisclosed amount for a 2002 accident in which a Buffalo, New York, woman suffered serious neck and wrist injuries when a carriage that was changing lanes was struck in the side by a drunk driver. The carriage seat in which the woman and her husband were sitting broke loose and flipped backward.

**June 8, 2009/San Francisco, California:** A horse pulling a carriage became spooked, threw the driver out of the rig, and ran over him before taking off down the street near Fisherman's Wharf. After being stopped by a passerby, the horse broke free and ran down the Embarcadero, knocking at least two bicyclists to the ground before being stopped. The driver died after spending two weeks in a coma.

**June 3, 2009/Mackinaw Island, Michigan:** The driver of a carriage on Mackinaw Island was injured after he was run over by his own rig after his horse was spooked by a dog.

**May 23, 2009/Morristown, New Jersey:** A man was taken to the hospital with broken ribs, severe scrapes, and bruising when two horses pulling a carriage in a parade became spooked and took off running. The man was thrown against the curb, was kicked, and became pinned under the carriage when it tipped over on top of him. A 9-year-old passenger was thrown to the street, and his 8-year-old friend clung to the side of the rig as the horses dragged it down the street. One horse suffered injuries, and the driver was also slightly injured. After the carriage was righted, the horses took off again, pulling the empty carriage.

**May 6, 2009/Mineral Wells, Texas:** A horse pulling a wagon in a rodeo parade bolted, injuring the driver and damaging a house and at least two parked cars. Bystanders were forced to run into a yard for safety, and a woman positioned her car between a mother with her baby and the horse, who was bolting toward them.

**April 24, 2009/Pratt, Kansas:** A man died and his wife was injured after a wheel came off the carriage in which they were riding and spooked the horses. The carriage went off the road, into a ditch, and up an incline before overturning. The man suffered a chest injury that punctured his lung, and he died during surgery. His wife suffered a sprained ankle. The couple was conducting a "test run" in preparation for an upcoming wedding.

**April 12, 2009/Logan, Utah:** The driver of a horse-drawn carriage was hospitalized after the carriage went off the road and tipped over.

**April 3, 2009/Nebraska City, Nebraska:** A horse pulling a carriage ran out of control and hit a curb, damaging a vehicle.

**March 26, 2009/Charleston, South Carolina:** A horse pulling a carriage with Classic Carriage Tours Co. was startled by the sound of construction machinery and ran down the street

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Many horses suffer from leg and foot injuries because of ill-fitting shoes and tack and from walking on hard asphalt surfaces all day long.

“at a high rate of speed.” The driver had to veer the horse and carriage to the side of the road in order to avoid hitting pedestrians. The carriage overturned, bending a stop sign completely over onto the sidewalk.

**March 23, 2009/Salem, New York:** A horse pulling a carriage that held eight to 10 passengers became frightened and ran down a steep embankment. A 9-year-old boy was injured when the carriage overturned, and he was airlifted to the hospital. The other passengers sustained minor injuries.

**February 14, 2009/Waseca, Minnesota:** Two horses pulling a carriage during Waseca’s Sleigh and Cutter Days Parade broke free and took off down the parade route. Witnesses reported that the driver was thrown into the street and was believed to have been taken to a nearby hospital. One woman suffered a foot injury, and a parked city truck was damaged.

**January 17, 2009/Eureka Springs, Arkansas:** A horse died of a heart attack while pulling a carriage for Southern Pride Carriage Tours.

**January 2009/Charleston, South Carolina:** A carriage with the Palmetto Carriage Co. hit the

rear bumper of a police car. The carriage driver told police that the horse was “spooked” by a puddle of water.

**December 18, 2008/Fountain Inn, South Carolina:** A car struck a horse-drawn carriage. The driver reported that he didn’t see the carriage in time to stop.

**December 15, 2008/St. Augustine, Florida:** A speeding car hit a horse-drawn carriage belonging to Avalon Carriage Services, causing the carriage to crash into another carriage. The accident spooked several horses. One horse bolted, causing a carriage to collide with a light pole. The accident caused several thousand dollars in damages.

**December 6, 2008/Fountain Inn, South Carolina:** One person was thrown to the ground and taken to the hospital after a car ran into the back of a horse-drawn carriage owned by Classic Carriage Co. Two other passengers later reported back injuries.

**November 28, 2008/Little Rock, Arkansas:** Six people, including two children, were injured when a bus struck a horse-drawn carriage owned by Little Rock Horse and Carriage Co. The carriage driver suffered a broken neck and had to have a steel plate, an artificial bone, and four screws inserted into her neck. Her right arm is partially paralyzed. A 7-year-old girl was blinded in her right eye. Doctors were unsure whether the damage to the girl’s eye was permanent.

**November 28, 2008/Rhineland, Wisconsin:** Horses pulling a Santa Claus in a carriage at a holiday event were startled by the lighting of a Christmas tree. Still harnessed to the carriage, the horses bolted, ran over a man, collided with two light poles, and briefly ran loose in the city. The man was transported to a hospital. At least one parked vehicle was damaged.

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**October 18, 2008/Charleston, South Carolina:** A horse with Classic Carriage Co. was startled when the rubber around one wheel of the carriage came off. The horse dashed between two parked cars, causing damage to the front bumper of one of the vehicles and overturning the carriage. The driver, who was thrown to the ground, suffered head injuries and was taken to the hospital.

**October 4, 2008/Portsmouth, Rhode Island:** Horses pulling a carriage at a sporting club became spooked and galloped into a wooded area where the carriage struck a wall and tipped over. Three passengers were injured.

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**“[Horse-drawn carriage rides] would really become a safety hazard, even in the off-season.”**

—Mel Leonard, director of planning and building,  
Panama City Beach, Florida

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**August 31, 2008/Brooklyn, New York:** Two horses waiting to pull a wedding carriage panicked when the pole that connected them to the carriage snapped. One of the carriage drivers was thrown from the buggy and landed on the windshield of an occupied Lincoln Town Car. The reins broke as the other carriage driver tried to steer the running horses, who eventually stopped when they encountered a light pole in their path. A man who was found under the carriage was taken to a nearby hospital, and one of the horses was treated for injuries.

**July 24, 2008/St. Augustine, Florida:** Three passengers in a horse-drawn carriage were treated for minor injuries at a local hospital after the horse made a sharp U-turn, flipping the buggy. The driver also suffered minor injuries, and the horse sustained scrapes and scratches.

**July 8, 2008/Memphis, Tennessee:** A pickup truck plowed into a horse-drawn carriage that was waiting for passengers, flipping the carriage over and tearing it in half. The carriage driver was taken to the hospital. The horse was knocked to the ground and suffered scratches on his legs.

**April 12, 2008/Cincinnati, Ohio:** A horse pulling a carriage tossed the driver and galloped along a sidewalk. Some of the four adult passengers jumped out of the carriage, and some fell out. The horse then dragged the overturned carriage at least another half-block before police stopped the animal. One passenger sustained a head injury, the driver suffered a back injury, and minor damage was done to a building.

**March 9, 2008/Waynesboro, Tennessee:** A man died after the horse-drawn carriage in which he was riding was struck from behind by a car, throwing him from the carriage. The victim's daughter, the horse, and the carriage were knocked approximately 25 feet off the road. The impact also killed the horse.

**March 2008/Charleston, South Carolina:** According to news reports, someone struck the wheel of a horse-drawn carriage, spooking the horse and sending the carriage racing down the street. The carriage sustained approximately \$2,500 in damage.

**January 19, 2008/Charleston, South Carolina:** A horse with the Old South Carriage Co. became spooked and ran off, knocking an employee to the ground and dragging the carriage around a corner, where it broke a restaurant window.

**January 9, 2008/Charleston, South Carolina:** Six tourists in a carriage owned by Old South Carriage Co. were injured after a loose bridle slipped over the ears of the horse who was pulling their carriage and the horse became startled. The horse ran and dragged the carriage

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until it hit a curb, shattering a wheel. Three of the passengers were thrown from the carriage as it fell on its side.

**December 29, 2007/Farmington, Pennsylvania:**

Five people, including two children, were injured when they were thrown to the ground after the horse-drawn carriage in which they were riding overturned. An adult woman and a young boy were pinned under the carriage. All five were taken to hospitals for treatment.

**December 16, 2007/Kansas City, Missouri:** Two horse-drawn carriages collided at an intersection, causing injuries to several people.

**December 13, 2007/Thomasville, Georgia:** A horse who had pulled carriages for years at the city's annual Victorian Christmas event became spooked and bolted while pulling a carriage with six passengers, then ran into a tree and a guy wire. The driver was pulled across the carriage's dashboard when the horse's harness came loose and broke. Passengers with minor injuries and a woman who suffered a panic attack were treated at the scene. The horse sustained a broken neck and other serious injuries and died as a result of the accident.

**December 8, 2007/St. Augustine, Florida:**

A car ran into the back of a horse-drawn carriage belonging to the St. Augustine Transfer Co., pushing the carriage into two parked cars. The crash spooked the horse, who took off running. The horse continued to run when the carriage front broke, freeing him from the carriage. The drivers were thrown from the carriage and were badly bruised.

**September 14, 2007/New York, New York:**

A horse who was spooked by a street performer's drum ran nearly a block along the sidewalk before slamming into a tree and suffering fatal injuries. The horse's panicking caused a second

horse—who was still attached to a carriage—to dart into traffic and collide with a car.

**August 17, 2007/Cincinnati, Ohio:** A taxi hit the back of a carriage, knocking the carriage driver and two passengers out of the buggy. The horse—with the carriage in tow—bolted and ran into a moving vehicle. The horse sustained a gash on one leg, and the driver was taken to the hospital with a leg injury.

**August 3, 2007/Mackinac Island, Michigan:** A horse-drawn carriage operated by Gough Livery crashed through a fence, fell approximately 6 feet down an embankment, and hit a tree after one of the horses pulling it became spooked, which caused both horses to run. The impact threw the driver and two passengers from the carriage, and all three were taken by ambulance to the island's medical center for treatment. One of the passengers blacked out and needed 30 staples to close an injury to his scalp; the other passenger suffered a bruised kneecap and broken bones in her feet. The driver broke her femur, and one of the horses received stitches.

**July 29, 2007/Roanoke, Virginia:** Three people, including a 4-year-old girl and a 15-year-old girl, were hospitalized after being thrown from a runaway horse-drawn carriage. The carriage's two horses bolted, and the driver lost control. The carriage ran over the 15-year-old's leg.

**July 4, 2007/New York, New York:** A frightened horse who was pulling a carriage bolted and collided with a taxi on Central Park South. A motorcyclist abandoned his bike in order to avoid the horse. The cab driver was treated for injuries at the hospital, the horse suffered several gashes on one leg, and the cab sustained significant front-end damage.

**June 17, 2007/Council Grove, Kansas:** A car crashed into the back of a horse-drawn carriage,

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and a second car crashed into the back of the first car. Two people were taken to the hospital for injuries. The horse was euthanized because of severe injuries.

**June 9, 2007/St. Augustine, Florida:** Five passengers jumped out of a carriage when a horse bolted and ran for several blocks. Two people were injured, including one who was taken to the hospital and treated for injuries.

**June 2, 2007/New York, New York:** A spooked horse who was pulling a carriage was hit by an SUV at an intersection after the horse galloped away from the driver. When the horse fell, the carriage broke loose, was propelled into the air, and landed on the curb, barely missing pedestrians.

**April 30, 2007/Blacksburg, Virginia:** Two horses were spooked when the carriage they were pulling sideswiped a curb. They bolted and ran at least a half-mile. A 73-year-old man and his daughter were thrown out of the carriage. The man was airlifted to the hospital.

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**“[I]n a split second, you can have a horse go from being half asleep to being 1,200 pounds crashing through traffic.”**  
—Dr. Holly Cheever, veterinarian and equine expert

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**April 13, 2007/New York, New York:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was hit by a taxi at Grand Army Plaza.

**April 9, 2007/Indianapolis, Indiana:** A collision with a van threw a carriage driver to the ground and sent a driverless carriage racing through downtown Indianapolis with two passengers trapped inside. The driver was knocked unconscious and both passengers were taken to

the hospital and examined. A bystander who jumped into the carriage from a moving taxi was credited with saving the passengers' lives.

**September 14, 2006/New York, New York:** After collapsing in Central Park, a horse named Juliet who had pulled carriages in New York City for almost two decades was whipped repeatedly by a carriage driver who was trying 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 that was 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 became 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 an open neck wound.

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

**January 2, 2006/New York, New York:** A horse who was pulling a carriage in Manhattan suddenly bolted and collided with an automobile. The horse was pinned under the car and was later euthanized because of severe injuries. The carriage driver was hospitalized in critical

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condition with a fractured skull, and two men in the car were also seriously injured.

**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.” More than two hours passed before a veterinarian arrived.

**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 he was stopped. One witness said, “He was really scared, scared to death, you could see it.” The driver went to the hospital with a broken leg.

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

**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 sustained less serious injuries.

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

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

**December 22, 2003/Kansas City, Missouri:** The driver of a horse-drawn carriage that carried six passengers was hospitalized with a broken leg after his carriage was involved in an accident.

**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 costs of animal-related traffic accidents (including horse-drawn carriage accidents). The article said that the accidents cause \$1.2 billion in damage 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 who was 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 recounted an accident in which a team of horses who were pulling a carriage bolted and threw two passengers, leaving one in a coma. The county subsequently banned horse-drawn carriages.

**September 5, 2003/Beaufort, Pennsylvania:** A woman was injured while attempting to board a horse-drawn carriage. The horse became spooked and started running, dragging the woman 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. The horse received stitches to the face and had to have cactus spines removed.

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**July 14, 2003/Covington, Ohio:** Horses who were pulling a carriage became spooked and caused the carriage to topple over onto the carriage driver. After the carriage was righted, the driver continued on, only to be fatally injured when the horses toppled the carriage again just a few blocks later.

**April 28, 2003/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A horse-drawn carriage that was carrying tourists flipped over, slightly injuring three of its nine passengers. The horses became spooked and toppled the wagon, spilling the passengers and driver onto the road.

**October 30, 2002/Pennsylvania:** An article in *The Patriot-News* reported that there were 371 horse-and-buggy crashes in Pennsylvania from 1996 through 2000, which resulted in 18 deaths and 442 injuries.

**October 11, 2002/Belding, Indiana:** The parents of a 4-year-old boy who was 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 a horse became spooked, reared up, and bolted. The boy was run over after he was thrown from the carriage. The parents filed a lawsuit, seeking more than \$1 million.

**July 8, 2002/Madison, Wisconsin:** After the occupants of a passing car threw firecrackers at a horse who was 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 who was pulling a carriage through traffic became frightened and bolted. The carriage became wedged between two cars, damaging both of them as well as other vehicles. The horse

had to be tranquilized, and it took the efforts of several people to free the animal and the carriage.

**2002/Louisville, Kentucky:** A 17-year-old horse named Pam and a 7-year-old horse named Della were killed in separate vehicle-related accidents.

**December 8, 2001/Belding, Indiana:** A 4-year-old boy fell out of a horse-drawn carriage when the animal who was pulling the carriage 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 collided with a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park, startling the horse and injuring the carriage driver.

**July 27, 2001/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** A spooked horse ran amok in downtown traffic. The carriage collided with two cars before it tipped over and struck a third vehicle. The carriage driver, one of the car's occupants, 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, were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. This accident and the one on July 27 in which a carriage in Philadelphia collided with two cars 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."

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**December 1, 2000/Old Bridge, New Jersey:**

Several members of a wedding party were injured when a horse stumbled and the carriage that they were riding in crashed 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 who was pulling a carriage broke free, bolted, and collided with 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 who had bolted from a wedding in Lincoln Park after being stung by a bee broke 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 that was turning a corner in Central Park tilted past its balance point and suddenly slammed onto its side. Four tourists were strapped to backboards and were 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 came within 3 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 before a veterinarian arrived to euthanize the animal.

**December 24, 1999/Dover, Delaware:** One person was partially paralyzed and two others were 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 when the horses she was unhitching after a wagon ride bolted. The woman became entangled in a harness and was killed when she was thrown into a hydro pole. The woman had spent the day offering rides at a city park. Just three weeks earlier, another pair of horses had run amok in Sarnia, 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, became 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 horses escaped their barn and ran through the streets of New Orleans before one struck a bus and broke its windshield.

**August 10, 1999/Helen, Georgia:** The driver of a carriage was dragged along the ground and sustained injuries after a spooked horse ran away from the carriage while giving rides in downtown Helen, Georgia. Police officials were not certain what had spooked the horse.

## Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

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

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

**June 28, 1999/New York, 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 later hit by an oncoming car.

**May 30, 1999/Baltimore, Maryland:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was killed by an oncoming car after the driver ran a red light. Another horse pulling a carriage was spooked by the incident and ran for eight blocks, injuring a passenger.

**April 7, 1999/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** Two horses who were 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 that was 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, New York:** A horse was fatally electrocuted while pulling a carriage.

**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.

**1999/New York, New York:** A horse ran out of control and jumped up on the sidewalk, injuring two elderly pedestrians.

**December 14, 1998/Milwaukee, Wisconsin:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was hit by a car and suffered serious injuries. Police killed the horse with four shotgun blasts. The carriage driver suffered neck and back injuries. 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 horses. The horses ran at full speed through three four-way-stop intersections before finally slamming into a tree.

**July 20, 1998/Duluth, Minnesota:** Two carriages carrying passengers and drivers overturned.

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

**April 29, 1998/New York, New York:** A horse broke the 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. Two passengers jumped to safety just seconds before the carriage that the animal was pulling 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 animal to crash into a vehicle. The driver was thrown from

## Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

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 killed by a car. The family was airlifted to a local hospital for treatment.

**September 4, 1997/New York, New York:** An elderly woman was seriously injured and eight other people were hurt when two carriages overturned after the horses who were pulling them were spooked by a passing car.

**August 12, 1997/Boston, Massachusetts:** A horse who was 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.

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**“There is no way that cities with their exhaust fumes, hard road surfaces, and busy traffic patterns can provide a humane (as opposed to merely survivable) environment for a carriage horse.”**

**—Dr. Holly Cheever, veterinarian and equine expert**

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**July 2, 1997/Kingsport, Tennessee:** A newlywed husband and wife were injured when a car rear-ended the horse-drawn carriage in which the two were riding. Both riders were hospitalized, and one suffered serious injuries.

**May 1, 1997/New York, New York:** A horse who was pulling a carriage tripped and 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 believed to have been going into labor.

**November 11, 1996/Cocoa Beach, Florida:** Newlyweds who were 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 horse who was pulling a carriage 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 who were pulling a carriage became spooked and took off down the street for six blocks before crashing into a light pole. The passengers leaped 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 who was 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 who was pulling the carriage in which they were riding bolted down the street. The carriage sideswiped five cars before it overturned and the passengers fell out.

## Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

**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 who were pulling a carriage became spooked and took off down the street, crashing into a parked car.

**April 29, 1994/New York, New York:** Following an error in a horse's diet, the animal experienced severe cramps and had to be euthanized after collapsing in Central Park.

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

**November 23, 1992/Salt Lake City, Utah:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was struck from behind by a car and was thrown to the ground along with four passengers. The panicked horse bolted down the street and was hit by another car.

**September 9, 1991/Cleveland, Ohio:** A horse who was pulling a carriage bolted and collided with 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 horse-drawn 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/New York, New York:** A horse had to be euthanized after suffering crippling leg cramps.

**May 15, 1990/New York, New York:** A horse who was pulling a carriage was fatally injured in Manhattan after becoming 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 collided with four parked vehicles and a car that was stopped in traffic.

**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 who was 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 and crashed into a building.

**December 9, 1985/New York, New York:** Two horses who were pulling a carriage became spooked by a passing car and ran 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.