

# SMOKE INHALATION - PROTECT YOUR HORSE'S HEALTH

## ▶ WHY SMOKE IS BAD FOR YOUR HORSE

- Smoke contains tiny particles that can go deep into the lungs and cause damage.
- Exercise makes horses breathe more frequently and more deeply and should be reduced or avoided

Ontario Veterinary College has conducted research on the impact of air pollution on horse health

<https://thehorseportal.ca/2021/05/equine-asthma-pollution/>

## ▶ SIGNS OF SMOKE IRRITATION

- ▶ Asthma-like signs (heaves)
- ▶ Coughing
- ▶ Difficulty breathing
- ▶ Watery eyes
- ▶ Fatigue or weakness
- ▶ Disorientation or stumbling
- ▶ Reduced appetite or thirst
- ▶ Nasal discharge

*IF YOU NOTICE THESE SIGNS...CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN!*

## ▶ HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HORSE

- Limit or cease exercise depending on your local **Air Quality Health index** [https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/index\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/index_e.html)
- Control dust!
  - Soak hay for 15 minutes and drain before feeding
  - Water dry paddocks
  - Wet down bedding
- Provide fresh water
- If your horse has any signs of smoke irritation – allow time for recovery
- Airway damage from wildfire smoke takes 4 to 6 weeks to heal – after air quality returns to normal

**Fire and smoke forecasts** <https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>

## | USEFUL RESOURCES |

**Air Quality Health Index** [https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/index\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/airquality/pages/index_e.html)

**Ontario Veterinary College Research** <https://youtu.be/5VH9EP6n19w>



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