Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

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

July 5, 2021/New York, New York: A man punched and kicked three horses who were waiting to take on passengers in Central Park.

June 19, 2021/Charleston, South Carolina: A carriage with multiple riders was struck by a truck, causing the frightened horse pulling it to take off running. Two passengers were taken to the hospital. The rig was being operated by the Old South Carriage Company.

April 3, 2021/Union County, North Carolina: A horse pulling a carriage sustained at least 15 bites in an attack lasting five to seven minutes by a dog who broke free of his leash. Witnesses said that the dog “latched onto the horse’s throat” and that the horse’s “face was pretty mangled … [and] lips were pretty well shredded by the dog.”

February 6, 2021/Pasadena, California: Two people were taken to the hospital after sustaining minor injuries when the horse-drawn carriage they were riding in tipped over during a funeral procession. The coffin fell off the carriage.

November 29, 2020/Virginia Beach, Virginia: Three people were injured, one critically, after a horse-drawn carriage was hit from behind. The horse sustained minor injuries.

July 19, 2020/Charleston, SC: A horse pulling a carriage for the Old South Carriage Company took off running and sustained serious injuries. He was euthanized.

February 29, 2020/New York, New York: A horse was euthanized after collapsing in Central Park.

February 4, 2020/New York, New York: According to NYCLASS, a horse took off running after stepping on an electrical plate and receiving a shock. The horse ran for several blocks before crashing into a pole and collapsing.

February 2020/New York, New York: According to news reports, a pedestrian witnessed a carriage horse running loose for several blocks before crashing into a poll and collapsing. The horse had apparently stepped on an electrical plate and the driver lost control.

December 27, 2019/Charleston, South Carolina: Two horses pulling a carriage for the Palmetto Carriage Works company took off and damaged several cars. One passenger jumped out of the carriage.
December 24, 2019/Aspen, Colorado: The driver of a horse-drawn carriage, who was standing outside the rig, sustained a broken leg after an SUV ran into her and the carriage.

December 14, 2019/Highland Park, Texas: A driver reported that he was attempting to get between two parked cars when a horse-drawn carriage carrying eight to 10 people tried to do the same and they struck each other.

In a separate incident, a woman reported that two horses pulling a carriage took off running and slammed into a concrete wall. One of the horses reportedly sustained a fractured skull and a broken back.

December 1, 2019/Riverside, California: Two horses pulling a carriage at the city’s Festival of Lights became unhitched, ran “full speed” down the street, and hit water-filled plastic street barricades. Both horses incurred “road rash.”

August 11, 2019/Clinton, Maine: A carriage crashed after one of the horses pulling it apparently became agitated when bitten by an insect. The carriage hit a telephone pole, a car, and then another telephone pole before coming to a stop. All four passengers were injured, and one was airlifted to a hospital in critical condition.

August 8, 2019/Cincinnati, Ohio: A car traveling the wrong way struck a horse-drawn carriage and fled, leaving both horse and driver injured. The driver was treated for a hand injury, and the horse, named Doc, was left bloodied.

August 4, 2019/New York, New York: A horse forced to pull a heavy carriage in New York City collapsed near Central Park. Horrified onlookers observed the animal struggling on the ground, still attached to the damaged carriage. Earlier that day, a horse escaped from a stable in the city and bolted into traffic before being recaptured.

July 19, 2019/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse pulling a carriage for Palmetto Carriage Works tripped and fell to her knees, sustaining minor abrasions.

June 20, 2019/Newport, Ohio: A carriage driver with Elegant Carriages sustained serious injuries and was almost thrown off a bridge after a car rear-ended her carriage.

May 11, 2019/Buckhannon, Pennsylvania: Four horses pulling a carriage during a parade took off running, hitting a pickup truck and knocking down several tents. One of the riders was thrown out and hit the windshield of the truck, while the other passenger jumped off.

April 15, 2019/Savannah, Georgia: A horse pulling a carriage for Carriage Tours of Savannah got “impatient” at an intersection, backed up, and then tipped the cart onto its side.

March 23, 2019/Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada: A horse tripped and fell after the carriage he was pulling veered and hit a parked vehicle. The carriage driver was treated for minor injuries at a hospital.

February 8, 2019/Savannah, Georgia: Seven people were taken to the hospital with injuries after the horse who was pulling the carriage they were riding in was spooked by construction noise and bolted. After galloping out of control the horse fell.
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December 11, 2018/New York, New York: According to four tourists, the driver of the carriage that they were in was asleep for most of their 45-minute ride and wasn’t holding the reins while he was supposed to be guiding the horse through Central Park and through traffic outside the park.

December 5, 2018/Lake Charles, Louisiana: After a mule-drawn carriage was hit by a car, the four people in it were taken to the hospital and the mule sustained cuts and bruises.

December 1, 2018/Hot Springs, Arkansas: A woman was hospitalized in intensive care after she was thrown from a horse-drawn carriage that was hit by a car. The driver of the car fled the scene.

November 24, 2018/O’Fallon, Missouri: During an annual holiday festival, a horse pulling a carriage carrying 12 riders was twice unable to pull the rig up a hill. The passengers were asked to get out that so the horse could get the carriage to the top.

November 21, 2018/Asheville, North Carolina: A woman was hospitalized after being run over when the two horses pulling it reportedly got spooked by ambulance sirens and took off running.

November 4, 2018/Montréal, Québec, Canada: A horse attached to a carriage collapsed and died on the street after apparently suffering from respiratory problems. A witness reported that the animal heaved and coughed for about 45 minutes before finally being detached and then collapsing.

October 2, 2018/New York, New York: A horse fell while pulling a carriage near Central Park.

September 30, 2018/Charleston, South Carolina: Two people sustained minor injuries after a horse pulling a carriage for the Old South Carriage Company got spooked and tipped over the carriage.

September 30, 2018/Charleston, South Carolina: The owner of Carolina Polo & Carriage Co. was cited after two horses got loose and walked through downtown streets.

August 17, 2018/Victoria, British Columbia: A carriage operated by Victoria Carriage Tours collided with a parked van, damaging its roof and the windows and doors on the passenger side.

August 15, 2018/Edmonton, Alberta: Six people were injured—one seriously—after a carriage rolled over. The horses were also injured.

July 20, 2018/Memphis, Tennessee: A horse pulling a carriage for Uptown Carriages took off galloping without a driver, throwing two passengers out. One had to be hospitalized.

July 19, 2018/Ochapowace Nation, Saskatchewan: Two horses pulling a carriage carrying 18 young campers took off running and ended up in some trees. Fifteen people were hospitalized after the crash. The horses had apparently been spooked by a car pulling out onto the road.

July 7, 2018/Sheridan, Illinois: A horse was spooked by a passing car and took off running, injuring several people. One woman was trapped underneath the carriage. A witness who ran to help pull her out said, “She wasn’t breathing at first .... I waited and saw her catch her breath.”
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May 10, 2018/Abilene, Texas: A carriage driver was injured after a motorcycle reportedly startled the horses pulling the carriage, causing them to run off the road. The driver was thrown to the street and taken to the hospital.

May 4, 2018/Victoria, British Columbia: Horrified bystanders took video footage of two horses struggling to stand after falling while pulling a carriage for Victoria Carriage Tours.

May 19, 2018/Memphis, Tennessee: After his vehicle and another car were hit by a carriage, a man fired six gunshots into the air and pointed the gun at the horse pulling the carriage.

May 4, 2018/British Columbia, Canada: Two 18-year-old horses pulling a carriage for Victoria Carriage Tours fell to the ground after one of them backed up, loosening their harness and causing the carriage to hit a nearby tour bus.

February 4, 2018/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage with three passengers in it took off running near New York’s Central Park South after getting spooked by a pedestrian who was opening and closing an umbrella and screaming loudly. The animal crashed into two parked cars before the driver regained control. The passengers were taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

January 16, 2018/New York, New York: A carriage overturned near Central Park as two carriages were reportedly racing to the hack line to be the first in line for business.

January 9, 2018/Bandera, Texas: The operator of a new horse-drawn carriage service was killed when an SUV crashed into her rig. The horse also died, and a passenger was treated for injuries.

December 12, 2017/Oconomowoc, Wisconsin: Fifteen people were injured when a carriage collided with two cars at an intersection. The two horses and the carriage ended up on top of one of the vehicles. Witnesses said that the horses had panicked after the carriage swerved. The rides were part of a free holiday event.

October 15, 2017/St. Augustine, Florida: A horse pulling a carriage for Country Carriages fell to the ground.

October 5, 2017/Charleston, South Carolina: A mule tripped and fell while she and another mule were pulling a carriage holding 16 passengers for Palmetto Carriage Works.

September 4, 2017/Old Montréal, Québec, Canada: A 15-year-old horse pulling a carriage collapsed. An initial veterinary report found the cause to be “extreme fatigue.” An SPCA spokesperson said that the horses are bought when they’re already at the end of their working lives “and they’re basically worked to death.”

September 1, 2017/Memphis Tennessee: Junior, a horse pulling a carriage for the Uptown Carriage Company, collapsed in the street and was later euthanized.

August 22, 2017/Durango, Colorado: A horse pulling an empty carriage took off down the street after the driver, who wasn’t in the carriage, became distracted.

July 29, 2017/St. Louis, Missouri: A horse pulling a carriage got spooked and took off running, eventually hitting a car. Two passengers sustained bruises when they jumped out of the carriage.
July 15, 2017/Cleveland, Ohio: Witnesses intervened after seeing a horse, who was pulling a carriage for Shamrock Carriages, fall to the ground while walking down a slippery hill in heavy traffic. According to a passerby, the animal appeared frightened and exhausted.

June 12, 2017/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse pulling a carriage for Charleston Carriage Works took off running, ran over a curb, and hit a parked car. The carriage driver was thrown from the rig, which was carrying nine passengers. The same horse and company were involved in another incident weeks earlier. (See the May 26, 2017, entry.)

May 30, 2017/New York, New York: A 12-year-old horse named Goldie broke free from the carriage that she was pulling and went into a full gallop, cutting off cars and running through rush-hour traffic for 11 blocks.

May 27, 2017/Intercourse, Pennsylvania: Twelve people were hospitalized after the horses pulling a large tour-style carriage apparently got spooked by a passing tractor-trailer. The carriage went off the road and rolled down a 4- to 5-foot embankment, coming to rest on its roof.

May 26, 2017/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse pulling a carriage for Charleston Carriage Works took off running, tossing the driver to the ground, and crashed into a car.

May 18, 2017/Charleston, South Carolina: Two horses pulling a carriage for Palmetto Carriage Works got spooked by a passerby wearing a costume. One horse fell, sustaining cuts and scratches, and the driver was thrown from the carriage, which struck a parked car.

May 17, 2017/New York, New York: A building inspector provided the media with a photograph of a horse named Sophia lying next to a pile of manure in a cramped stall. The whistleblower told a reporter, “The stable looked like it hadn’t been cleaned in years. It got so crammed up that the horse would have a hard time getting up.”

May 15, 2017/New York, New York: A horse named Billy got spooked by a horn while heading to Central Park. A surveillance video showed the animal backpedaling in the middle of the street during rush hour, eventually falling onto a cab.

April 19, 2017/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse scraped his legs after he slipped and fell while pulling a carriage for Charleston Carriage Works.

April 14, 2017/Wichita, Kansas: While on a field trip, three students and a chaperone were thrown from their carriage seats, sustaining bumps and bruises, when two horses got spooked and pulled the carriage in sharp circles on the main street of Old Cowtown Museum.
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December 21, 2016/St. Charles, Missouri: A horse drowned in the Missouri River after he got spooked while pulling a carriage for the St. Louis Carriage Company and ran into the river. Several cars were also damaged.

December 10, 2016/Willmar, Minnesota: Two horses pulling a carriage during a neighborhood Christmas light display got spooked and took off running for a mile, with 15 passengers aboard, most of whom were children. The carriage eventually crashed, and the driver later died of his injuries. Some of the passengers sustained minor injuries.

December 3, 2016/Kansas City, Missouri: Three people and a horse were injured after the horse, who was pulling a carriage, got spooked and took off running into oncoming traffic before crashing into a wall. The driver was ejected, and the horse seemed unable to stand up when crews worked to remove the animal. A witness described the scene: "The horse pulling the carriage was tearing down the road, I mean full-sprint. The driver, you could see her pulling on the strap, but it wasn’t slowing the horse down."

November 7, 2016/Vancouver, British Columbia: The driver and several passengers were thrown from a carriage after the horses pulling it got spooked by a car horn and bolted. The carriage slammed into a park bench, destroying it. One tourist who escaped unharmed said that she "had to hold on for dear life."

October 14, 2016/New York, New York: A pedicab carrying two passengers overturned in Central Park after it hit a carriage.

September 2, 2016/New York, New York: An eyewitness reported that a horse named Norman collapsed after the driver was "screaming for the horse to make the green light." A spokesperson for the industry dismissed the incident, calling the horse a "klutz."

August 19, 2016/Victoria, British Columbia: A horse pulling a carriage for Tally-Ho Carriage Tours broke free and took off running.

July 30, 2016/New Orleans, Louisiana: Several people were injured after a truck collided with a horse-drawn carriage operated by Mid-City Carriages.

July 17, 2016/Charleston, South Carolina: Two mules pulling a carriage for the Palletto Carriage Works got spooked after the rubber came off one of the wheels and the carriage crashed to the ground. The carriage slammed into a brick wall and broke an iron gate.

July 14, 2016/Mackinac Island, Michigan: A horse pulling a carriage got spooked and crashed into a nearby porch.

July 13, 2016/Lehi, Utah: Two horses pulling a carriage got spooked and crashed into two trees, leaving four children injured. The children’s mother said, "The cart hit the tree and all of us flew out of our seats and one of our little boys fell out of our cart entirely and was underneath (close to) where the wheels were."

June 7, 2016/Mackinac Island, Michigan: After losing control of her bicycle, a woman died after being run over by a horse-drawn carriage.
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July 2, 2016/Shepherdsville, Kentucky: Details were sketchy, but according to local news reports, a semi-trailer got stuck under an overpass while trying to detour around a carriage accident.

April 2016/Montréal, Québec, Canada: A passerby took video footage of a horse pulling an apparently empty carriage and colliding with a car. The horse stumbled before galloping off through Old Montréal. Shortly after the incident, the mayor suspended the permits of 24 carriage drivers for a year so that regulations could be tightened.

December 2015/Highland Park, Texas: Two people were thrown out of a carriage after the horses took off down the street during holiday rides. Earlier this month, a car was damaged by a carriage, and the carriage driver didn’t stop.

December 25, 2015/Waterville, Maine: A woman died after being critically injured when a car crashed into the horse-drawn carriage she was riding in on Christmas Day. Six other people were injured. The holiday hayrides were hosted by the Waterville Elks Lodge. The carriage driver told reporters, “I’m always worried about [crashing]. People fly by us like we weren’t there.”

August 24, 2015/Kokomo, Indiana: A minivan crashed into the back of a horse-drawn carriage, flipping the rig upside down. Two passengers were taken to the hospital, and the horse struggled to stand up after being knocked down in the collision. The animal sustained scrapes to the hind legs.

August 19, 2015/St. Louis, Missouri: A carriage carrying six passengers was hit by a vehicle from behind, throwing the carriage driver to the ground. The crash caused the carriage to tip over, throwing the passengers around.

August 7, 2015/St. Louis, Missouri: A minivan rear-ended a carriage, throwing the carriage driver out and shoving the carriage into the back of the horse. The minivan then ran over the carriage driver and kept going. The carriage driver was seriously injured, and the horse sustained some scratches. The carriage was totaled.

July 14, 2015/Old Montréal, Québec, Canada: An eyewitness reported seeing a horse slip and fall. The horse reportedly fell repeatedly while attempting to get back up and looked panicked and exhausted. The temperature was 34 degrees Celsius (93 degrees Fahrenheit).

July 17, 2015/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse pulling a carriage for the Old South Carriage Co. collapsed on a busy downtown street after getting spooked by a truck. The horse, named Blondie, sustained scrapes, and a forklift was needed to get him back on his feet.

August 24, 2015/St. Louis, Missouri: A passerby took video of a horse galloping through downtown hitched to an empty carriage. The horse, named Bud, had been pulling the carriage for the St. Louis Carriage Co. and apparently got spooked. According to news reports, a few years ago another horse with the same company took...
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off running. The person who took the video told reporters that it’s the third time he has seen driverless carriages careening out of control in the last year.

April 14, 2015/Anchorage, Alaska: The owner of the Horse Drawn Carriage Company sustained serious injuries when he was thrown out of a carriage and run over after the two horses he was training got spooked. The company offers sleigh, wagon, and horse-drawn carriage rides.

April 2015/San Juan, Puerto Rico: After a horse collapsed on the street, San Juan’s mayor immediately banned carriages in the city. Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz Soto said that she took the action in response to “the deplorable conditions of exploitation and mistreatment to which the horses are submitted on the streets of Old San Juan” and to protect “the horses from the mistreatment to which they are exposed every day.”

March 27, 2015/McKinney, Texas: One horse broke a leg and another sustained a shoulder injury after a car clipped the animals, who were pulling a carriage, sending both horses crashing into a parked truck. The carriage was being operated by the Happy Trails Carriage Service.

February 23, 2015/New York, New York: A horse named Tickles was found in his stall unable to stand. He was euthanized because of a fractured leg.

December 28, 2014/Dallas, Texas: Two passengers were injured after being tossed out of a carriage after the horse got spooked by a horn. The horse was also injured, and the carriage was seriously damaged.

August 3, 2014/Mackinac Island, Michigan: A woman sustained multiple rib fractures and a shoulder fracture after running into a team of horses on her bike and falling under the spooked animals.

July 12, 2014/St. Louis, Missouri: While out for a walk with her dog, the city’s health director, Pam Walker, intervened to stop riders from boarding a carriage when she saw a horse “showing classic signs of heatstroke.” Walker said, “That horse (Moose) was obviously under duress.”

June 21, 2014/Mackinac Island, Michigan: Horses got spooked in two separate incidents. A woman riding a bike lost her balance and knocked into a horse, spooking the animal, before she fell to the ground and was trampled. In the second incident, a bicyclist playing loud music spooked a horse, who began jumping around and made a U-turn that flipped the carriage. The couple driving the carriage was thrown out.

June 14, 2014/Fairbanks, Alaska: Several people were injured, including one who was sent to the hospital, when the back of a carriage broke off, spooking the horses, who took off running. Six women riding in the carriage were thrown from their seats, and the horses knocked over a bystander, cutting her arm and causing her to fall and hit her head.

June 12 and 13, 2014/Newport, Kentucky: Carriages were rear-ended by cars two days in a row on the Taylor-Southgate Bridge. The carriage drivers in both incidents were thrown from their seats. Both were taken to the hospital, one with serious injuries.
May 17, 2014/Stedman, North Carolina: A popped balloon at an outdoor celebration startled a horse who was pulling a carriage carrying two adults and three children, some of whom were thrown from the carriage as the horse ran through the crowd.

April 12, 2014/North Little Rock, Arkansas: A car horn spooked a horse, who took off running. The wheel of the carriage collided with a vehicle next to the carriage, and then the horse continued bucking and running and hit a second vehicle.

October 19, 2014/New York, New York: A passerby took video of a horse bolting up 11th Avenue in Manhattan. In the video, the horse is seen running through a busy intersection tailed by a New York Police Department cruiser as another car makes an unsuccessful attempt to cut off the horse’s path by pulling in front of the animal.

July 4, 2014/Holland, Michigan: Two people were hurt after a horse pulling a carriage got spooked when a person on a skateboard fell in front of the animal, causing the horse to bolt "out of control." The driver sustained minor injuries while attempting to stop the horse, and the animal struck and knocked down a bystander, who also sustained minor injuries.

June 19, 2014/Charleston, South Carolina: A horse sustained some scratches and two passengers were thrown to the ground after the animal, who was pulling a carriage for Charleston Carriage Works, got spooked and ran into the side of a house.

June 12 and 13, 2014/Newport, Kentucky: A carriage was hit from behind on the Taylor-Southgate Bridge, throwing the driver out of the rig. The previous day, a carriage was hit on the same bridge, severely injuring the driver, who was thrown to the street.

June 9, 2014/New York, New York: A horse named Pumpkin got spooked and bolted, leaving pedestrians scrambling for safety. A passerby was pulled off his feet and dragged after he grabbed the reins in an attempt to stop the horse. A bicyclist caught up with Pumpkin and wedged him between a taxi and a car, smashing the cab’s door in the process.

May 24, 2014/Victoria, British Columbia, Canada: A carriage driver and a motorist were injured after a horse working for Tally-Ho Carriage Tours got spooked and bolted, hitting two cars and a motorcycle. The driver fell out of the carriage, and the motorcyclist jumped off his bike. Two passengers were thrown from the carriage.

July 14, 2014/Chicago, Illinois: At least five people, including four children, were injured when an SUV rear-ended a horse-drawn carriage operated by Chicago Horse & Carriage. The driver was thrown from the carriage. The horse, named Milo, sustained some scratches to his knee.
April 23, 2014/New York, New York: Two eyewitnesses, one an attorney and the other a photographer who videotaped the incident, saw a horse spook and fall to the ground after a bus passed the carriage too closely. The carriage was knocked over, and a second horse pulling a carriage nearby took off running in the chaos. The fallen horse was eventually uprighted, and the carriage continued on its way, even though the horse was limping.

April 2014/New York, New York: Carriage driver Frank Luo allegedly falsified records to force an old, asthmatic horse named Ceasar to keep working. In September 2013, Luo was involved in a dangerous horse-carriage accident, and in an unrelated incident that month, he was charged with operating a carriage for more than 12 hours in a 20-hour period and for overcharging riders.

April 22, 2014/Mustang, Oklahoma: Thirteen riders, including nine children, were injured when a horse-drawn carriage overturned during an annual “land run” re-enactment. The horse broke free of the damaged rig and ran away. Two children and one adult were taken to the hospital, while the rest were treated at the scene.

April 22, 2014/Charleston, South Carolina: One pedestrian and three riders sustained scrapes and bruises after a horse pulling a carriage got spooked and the carriage crashed.

April 18, 2014/Cleveland, Ohio: Danny Boy, a horse pulling a carriage for Shamrock Carriages, lost his footing on metal construction plates and fell to the ground.

April 15, 2014/Santa Ynez, California: Two men were injured, one of them seriously, after two horses pulling a carriage got spooked and bolted, causing the carriage to roll over. Both men were ejected from the vehicle.

April 14, 2014/Savannah, Georgia: A horse pulling a carriage for Historic Savannah Carriage Tours got spooked and ran for six blocks, ejecting the driver and tossing five passengers around. Five vehicles were damaged, and the driver and one passenger of the carriage were taken to the hospital with injuries. Witnesses described the horse and carriage bouncing off cars “like a pin ball” and reported seeing the horse in full gallop as the driver stood up, trying to regain control, before being ejected.

March 22, 2014/San Juan Capistrano, California: Three people were injured during the Swallows Day Parade in San Juan Capistrano. Two horses pulling a carriage filled with people got spooked and careened into a crowd of paradegoers. One of the horses fell on a spectator, who was taken to the hospital with “moderate” injuries. Another woman was taken to the hospital with knee and lower-back injuries, and a third spectator sustained bumps and bruises.

March 18, 2014/Cameron, New York: A driver sustained serious injuries and a horse was killed after a drunken driver ran into the back of a carriage. The carriage driver had to be taken to the hospital by helicopter.

January 31, 2014/Dallas, Texas: A driver was thrown from a carriage after the horse bolted and ran down the street.

December 28, 2013/San Antonio, Texas: A car hit a carriage, knocking the driver out of the rig. The car then fled the scene.
December 21, 2013/St. Louis, Missouri: A horse named King keeled over and died while pulling a carriage in a holiday light display.

December 12, 2013/Louisville, Kentucky: A car rear-ended a carriage that was being operated by the Louisville Horse Trams company, causing the horse to break free and take off down the street.

December 2013/New York, New York: Carriage driver Saverio Colarusso was charged with cruelty to animals after a police officer observed him working a horse named Blondie, who was visibly injured and struggling to pull the weight of the carriage. Colarusso told the officer that Blondie had been hurt for four days and that he had worked her for five hours that day. A veterinarian found that Blondie had thrush—an infection of the hoof that, if left untreated, can lead to permanent lameness and sometimes even require euthanasia.

In 2010, Colarusso was charged with drinking while on duty, and he’s also been fined for driving a horse through city streets at unauthorized times, failing to keep a daily log, and not turning on the lamps on the side of his carriage after dark.

November 10, 2013/Galveston, Texas: The driver of a carriage jumped out of the rig after the horse took off running, leaving two passengers behind. The driver was run over by the carriage, and one passenger jumped out as the other tried to regain control. The carriage plowed through a fence.

November 9, 2013/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A horse named Silver, who was pulling a carriage for the 76 Carriage Co., slipped and fell and was unable to get up. He was then strapped to a tractor and raised to his feet.

October 4, 2013/New Hope, Pennsylvania: A horse named Bett collapsed and died while pulling a carriage for the Bucks County Carriages company. The temperature was in the mid-80s.

September 26, 2013/New York City, New York: A horse named Chris sustained scratches after he bolted through midtown, sideswiped a car, and flipped the carriage. Chris was pinned under the overturned carriage and was freed after a group of bystanders lifted the rig off his hind legs. The driver, Frank Luo, owner of the Manhattan Carriage Co., had been charged just the previous day for operating a carriage for more than 12 hours in a 20-hour period and for overcharging riders. Luo admitted that Chris had been acting strangely as soon as they left the stable, yet Luo continued on his way.

September 21, 2013/Corvallis, Oregon: Two horses pulling a carriage for a wedding procession took off running. The carriage hit several objects before overturning, ejecting the passengers.

August 17, 2013/Salt Lake City, Utah: A horse named Jerry collapsed on State Street in downtown Salt Lake City in sweltering heat while pulling a carriage. He sustained cuts and abrasions when he fell on the hot asphalt. Straps were tied to him so that he could be dragged into a trailer. Back at the stable, a tractor was used to lift his limp body into a barn. Jerry subsequently died.

July 9, 2013/Salt Lake City, Utah: A 2-year-old child was thrown from a carriage onto the street near Temple Square. After she landed on the street, a carriage wheel ran over her leg. She was transported to Primary Children’s Medical Center with road rash and abrasions.
April 4, 2013/Salt Lake City, Utah: A horse got spooked on North Temple after children were throwing wads of paper at him. The horse bucked and tipped the carriage over into a Utah Transit Authority bus, obstructing traffic for about an hour.

August 10, 2013/Petaluma, California: An 11-year-old girl riding in a horse-drawn carriage was injured after the horse got spooked and took off running full speed down the street. The driver was ejected and dragged for several yards, and the girl sustained minor and moderate injuries and was taken to the hospital. The horse was caught and reportedly sustained minor injuries.

February 2, 2013/Ashfield, Ontario, Canada: A car collided with a carriage, sending two passengers to the hospital.

January 5, 2013/Burbank, California: A woman sustained head injuries after being ejected from the carriage in which she was riding. The horse pulling the carriage had gotten spooked, causing the carriage to overturn.


December 8, 2012/Guelph, Ontario, Canada: A driver sustained serious injuries after being dragged by two horses who got spooked after the brakes on a nearby car squeaked. The carriage flipped over.

December 5, 2012/Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: A witness reported seeing two horses on the side of the road, one lying on the ground and another rearing and bucking. Police said one horse slipped and fell.

December 3, 2012/North Vernon, Indiana: A woman died of injuries that she sustained in a carriage accident on November 18. The two horses had gotten spooked and took off, overturning the carriage.

November 28, 2012/Natchez, Mississippi: A carriage driver sustained bumps and bruises after a car rear-ended the carriage and he was knocked off it.

November 25, 2012/Bedford, Pennsylvania: Two horses who got spooked by band music took off, causing the driver to jump out of the carriage. He was flown by helicopter to the hospital and treated for head injuries. Two passengers were also taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

November 12, 2012/New York, New York: A horse named Henry, who was pulling a carriage in Central Park, hurt his leg after stumbling. He was pulled from service.

October 28, 2012/Montréal, Québec, Canada: A horse pulling a carriage collapsed, and witnesses reported that the driver kicked him while he was on the ground. The carriage operator surrendered the horse, along with another horse he no longer wanted, to the SPCA.

September 22, 2012/Salt Lake City, Utah: A horse-drawn carriage was struck in the rear by a motor vehicle near 200 South and State Street. The driver fled the scene, but police tracked him down and charged him with a hit-and-run. No injuries were reported.

September 1, 2012/Houston, Texas: Two people were sent to the hospital after a car crashed into a carriage.
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August 16, 2012/New York, New York: A spooked horse took off into busy traffic, dumped the driver and two passengers, struck two cars, split the carriage in two, and ran for four blocks before being captured. The two passengers and the driver were treated for minor injuries. The horse, named Oreo, was tranquilized before being taken back to the stables.

July 21, 2012/Galveston, Texas: A man was killed and three others were hospitalized after the carriage in which they were riding was hit by a car. The horse’s leg was cut open, according to an eyewitness, and the animal was led away limping.

July 13, 2012/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A horse named Dutch, who was pulling a carriage, became startled and ran into an intersection, where two cars hit the carriage. The driver was thrown from the carriage and hospitalized. The horse took off down the street and sustained a leg injury.

July 10, 2012/Casper, Wyoming: Two horses were euthanized and three people sustained injuries when an SUV rear-ended a carriage. A witness said that the carriage and horses were thrown into the air.

June 7, 2012/New York, New York: A horse sustained a “nasty-looking gash” after an SUV collided with the carriage she was pulling. The horse’s head cracked the automobile’s windshield after the animal was sideswiped.

May 28, 2012/Milwaukee, Wisconsin: A car hit a carriage and took off. The horse, Smokey, sustained cuts to his legs, and the driver was thrown from the carriage and sustained cuts and bruises. The carriage was operated by Milwaukee Coach and Carriage.

May 10, 2012/St. Louis, Missouri: A driver abandoned a carriage after a man allegedly hijacked it, and Harry, the horse being used by the St. Louis Carriage Company, took off running for 10 blocks before crashing. The assailant jumped out and punched and kicked Harry before passersby intervened.

April 28, 2012/Old Montréal, Québec, Canada: A horse pulling a carriage bolted full-speed down the street. The driver was dragged before she fell off. Several parked vehicles were damaged, and the carriage was broken apart. The woman sustained minor injuries, but the horse’s condition wasn’t reported.

December 18, 2011/New Orleans, Louisiana: A horse pulling a rickshaw collapsed and died on Bourbon Street.

December 16, 2011/Wichita Falls, Texas: Several people were injured, including two who were hospitalized, after falling out of a carriage that turned over. The riders had been viewing holiday lights.

December 4, 2011/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage with four passengers near Central Park stumbled and fell to the street. A representative of the Horse and Carriage Association of New York downplayed the incident, saying the horse “caught [his] toe in the pavement, which is quite common.”

December 3, 2011/Hemet, California: After participating in a Christmas parade, a spooked horse took off running, rolling over the animal’s owner with the carriage and striking light poles and parked cars before collapsing. The owner was treated at the hospital.

October 28, 2011/New York, New York: A spooked horse charged into traffic and ran down the street before crashing. A witness reported that it was quiet and that it was unclear what had prompted the horse to bolt, saying, “The entire incident happened so fast and was extremely shocking. The horse took off at top speed and could not be stopped. He could have easily trampled a pedestrian.”

October 23, 2011/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage collapsed and died in the street.

September 25, 2011/ Hampton Falls, New Hampshire: Two horses pulling a carriage carrying about a dozen passengers bolted and collided with another carriage. A woman who tried to stop the horses was trampled and airlifted to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Another passenger was hospitalized with serious injuries, and four others sustained minor injuries.

September 23, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah: A horse named Cletus lost his footing, slipped, and collapsed in front of Temple Square. He died later that evening.

August 17, 2011/Mackinac Island, Michigan: A witness reported seeing a horse collapse to the ground, have a seizure, and die. The carriage driver continued to pull on the reins in an effort to get the horse up while the animal was dying.

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 27, 2011/Quinton, Oklahoma: Five people riding in a horse-drawn carriage died of massive injuries after a truck collided with the carriage.

July 15, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah: A horse pulling a carriage got spooked when he or she heard the air brake release from a nearby bus. The horse reared up, causing the carriage to jack-knife, and the passengers were thrown around inside it. The carriage was damaged, but no one was seriously injured.

July 3, 2011/Toronto, Ontario, Canada: While pulling a carriage, a pair of horses got spooked, bolted, and ran over the carriage’s owner before the carriage flipped over. The rig’s owner sustained 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 sustained cuts from being thrown around in the carriage.

February 12, 2011/Ottawa, Ontario, Canada: 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.
Incidents Involving Horse-Drawn Carriages

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 the carriage driver exchanged 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.

July 31, 2010/Eureka, California: The driver and owner of Old Town Carriage Co. was hospitalized with serious injuries after the horse who was pulling the carriage got 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 sustained 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 got spooked and took off, dragging the carriage through crowds of people at a ejected from the vehicle.

June 10, 2010/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A pit bull slipped out of her leash and attacked a horse pulling a carriage.

May 31, 2010/Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada: A 4-year-old girl was killed after a horse got 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.

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 got 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.

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.

April 10, 2010/Anchorage, Alaska: A drunken driver crashed her pickup truck into a horse-drawn carriage.

February 13, 2010/Fort Worth, Texas: The driver of a horse-drawn carriage sustained 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 sustained serious road rash injuries, some down to the bone. The back two horses also sustained 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 sustained a “fairly severe head injury” and was taken to the hospital. A passenger sustained 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 100 yards before hitting an electric pole. All 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 got 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 in the carriage. The horse sustained 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 sustained 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 sustained 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 got 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 Historic Savannah Carriage Tours got 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 4, 2009/San Antonio, Texas: A horse got 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 sustained 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 got 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/Mackinac Island, Michigan: The driver of a carriage on Mackinac Island was injured after he was run over by his own rig after his horse got 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 got 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 sustained 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 sustained a chest injury that punctured his lung, and he died during surgery. His wife sustained a sprained ankle. The couple was conducting a “test run” in preparation for an upcoming wedding ceremony.

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 “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 sustained a foot injury, and a parked city truck was damaged.


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 got spooked by a puddle of water.
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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 sustained 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 would be 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.

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, sustained head injuries and was taken to the hospital.

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

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
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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 sustained 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 sustained 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 sustained 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. got 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 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 got 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
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loose and broke. Passengers with minor injuries and a woman who experienced 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 got spooked by a street performer’s drum ran nearly a block along the sidewalk before slamming into a tree and sustaining 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 got 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 sustained 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 sustained 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, 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 got 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.

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, Juliet, a horse 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 got 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 sustained leg injuries.

May 5, 2006/New York, New York: A horse pulling a carriage through Manhattan got 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 got 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 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.
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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 sustained 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 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 got 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.

July 14, 2003/Covington, Ohio: Horses who were pulling a carriage got 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 got spooked and toppled the wagon, spilling the passengers and driver onto the road.
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**December 4, 2002/St. Augustine, Florida:** A vehicle crashed into a horse-drawn carriage, ejecting the guide and two riders. The driver of the vehicle who hit the carriage was charged with driving under the influence, and police cited the carriage driver for pulling into the car's path. The riders were taken to the hospital.

**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 got 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 gotten 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.”

**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 sustained 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, Canada:** 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 got 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 got spooked and ran through a parade, injuring two people and damaging four vehicles.

December 14, 1998/Milwaukee, Wisconsin: A horse who was pulling a carriage was hit by a car and sustained serious injuries. Police killed the horse with four shotgun blasts. The carriage driver sustained 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 got 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.

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 the carriage,
and the horse sustained 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 got 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.

**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 sustained 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 sustained 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 got 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 sustained 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.

**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 got 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 sustained 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 sustained 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 from 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 9, 1985/New York, New York: Two horses who were pulling a carriage got 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.

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 got 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.