



NEWSLETTER

31 August, 2007



KUNDABUNG VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Subject: Equine Influenza Update 31/08/07

From: Alan Brinkworth

To: All Staff

Sent: Friday, August 31, 2007 12:14 PM

BACKGROUND

The virus can last up to 3 days on a person or their clothing and can last up to 28 days on clean stainless steel surfaces.

Crews should carry substantial garbage bags and a change of clothes if they are likely to enter rural properties with horses.

NSW Ag will pick up the cost of cleaning clothes if required, for any incident related activity.

Some further advice from NSW Ag on precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of Equine Influenza:

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS particularly for RFS personnel who live on properties with horses should observe the following:

- , If in direct contact with any horse, the person should change their clothes, have a shower and put on clean clothes – without any cross contamination, the previously worn clothes should be washed prior to be used again.
- , The seats of any vehicle that has been previously used should be washed and cleaned.
- , Prior to leaving the property the wheels of the vehicle, including wheel arches and the person's boots must be washed down and hands must then be rewashed.
- , If the vehicle has been in direct contact with any horse it must be thoroughly cleaned before leaving the property.
- , If responding to a call in an RFS vehicle, prior to leaving the property, the wash down actions as noted above should again be followed.
When washing is required, this should be done with clean water
- , If any person has any particular concern, to be absolutely safe they may fully change their clothes, seal inside a garbage bag for later washing, wash their hands and be sure not to cross contaminate clothing.

RESTRICTED AREAS

Same precautions as above.

QUARANTINED PROPERTIES

- , If attending an incident on a quarantined property then all personnel must follow the directions of the DPI Officer on site.

POSSIBLE NEW OUTBREAK

- , If horse/s on a property show any signs of respiratory distress, coughing or sneezing ring, via your District Duty Officer, through to RFS State Duty Operations Officer for specific advice prior getting back into the tanker and leaving the property.

Districts/Teams/Zones: - This needs to be relayed to all RFS crews that may enter or live on a property where there are horses.

Thanks for your cooperation.

REMINDER:

General meeting Wednesday 05 September, 2007 at 19:00 hours (7:00pm) at Fire Shed

Newsletter on line at: www.kundabung.info