

SAFETY ALERT



WHEELIE BIN SECURITY ON RACE DAYS AND DURING WINDY CONDITIONS.

Background

On Saturday 8/4/2023 at Doomben, 2x240 litre wheelie bins were blown by strong winds, occurring on that day in Brisbane, from the back of house landing for the 10,000 dining room, rolled down the stairs with one ending on the first landing and the other a few steps further down. This occurred in close proximity to where the horses were parading in the mounting yard for race 2.

The horses, who were already in heightened spirits from the windy conditions, were spooked by the loud crashing noise caused by the wheelie bins, causing one of the horses to rear up head butting the female jockey in the face and nose, causing her to lose control and fall from the horse and causing injury. The jockey was examined by the onsite medics and doctor, QAS were called and escorted the jockey to hospital.

Issues

The above scenario poses the following risks -

- Injury to a Jockey.
- Potential injury to a horse.
- High risk of injury to club employees and onsite participants, patrons and visitors who may have been on the stairs or landing at the time.
- Potential damage to property.

Clubs are defined as a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and therefore as the duty holder, are obliged to ensure health and safety, so far as is reasonably practicable, by eliminating risks to health and safety. If this is not possible, risks must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

Controls

- Clubs must ensure that wheelie bins and other objects that may be blown in wind or knocked over at any time by humans or animals, should be placed in areas away from mounting yards where possible, to eliminate or minimise the risk of spooking horses and causing injury to horse and human.
- Clubs must ensure that all bins and all items that could be blown in strong winds or could be knocked over by humans or animals, are properly secured to a permanent and robust structure.

