

For Immediate Release

For More Information:
Contact Press Officers John Strassburger & Heather Bailey
[707-473-0991](tel:707-473-0991) / phoenixfarm@hughes.net

[Reminder to all media representatives: Requests for media credentials must be received no later than Oct. 28. Contact the press officers.]

Galway Downs Event Remains Safe From Fires

Temecula, Calif., Oct. 23 – Even though more than a dozen fires are raging in the mountains and valleys around Los Angeles and San Diego, Organizer Robert Kellerhouse insists that the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event, on Nov. 1-4, will run as scheduled. Kellerhouse reports that the Southern California Equestrian Center has suffered only wind damage.

“We don’t want to tempt Mother Nature or the fire gods, but we’ve been incredibly lucky. We haven’t even been inundated by smoke here at the facility,” Kellerhouse says. He said the only damage they’ve suffered has been caused by the high winds, which have blown down some large trees and piled up sand in some areas “like a snowdrift.”

Kellerhouse says there are major fires well to the north and the fires around Escondido and Poway to the south. But there are no fires to the east of the equestrian center that could be blown westward by the Santa Ana winds.

Kellerhouse said the Galway Downs office has received numerous calls from competitors who live in Northern California or farther north, who are especially concerned about the road

conditions. But the highways from the north were open as of Oct. 29. I-15 to the south is closed, however.

The SCEC is currently housing about 120 evacuated horses, but Kellerhouse stresses that none of these are displaced or abandoned horses. They've all been brought to the SCEC by their owners or trainers, who are continuing to care for their horses and who intend to return them to their home barns as soon as conditions allow.

"If you can get here – and you could do that now, except from the south – you and your horse will be fine," promises Kellerhouse.

The first veterinary inspection is scheduled for Thursday morning, with the dressage phase to follow on Friday, cross-country on Saturday, and the show jumping finale on Sunday.

General admission to the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event is \$8 per day in advance, \$10 per day at the gate. Patron tickets – which include parking, a program and a catered lunch with beer, wine or soft drinks – are also available.

To order patron or general admission tickets, or for more information on the Galway Downs Three-Day Event, visit their website (www.galwaydowns.com) or call 951-303-0405. To learn more about eventing, visit the U.S. Eventing Association's website (www.useventing.com).