

For Immediate Release

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[Reminder to all media representatives: If you have not requested press credentials, contact the press officers immediately.]

Temecula, Calif., Oct. 27 – The post-fire conditions are continuing to improve in the area around the Southern California Equestrian Center, site of the Galway Downs International Three-Day Event, and Organizer Robert Kellerhouse is moving ahead with plans to host the event on Nov. 1-4.

“It’s a very personal decision whether people want to bring their horses to compete or not, but nothing would have been gained by canceling the competition,” says Kellerhouse. “We are, though, trying to help riders and owners make an informed decision by posting a link to the national air-quality index on our website [galwaydowns.com].”

That index reached 117 on Oct. 27 at 9:00 a.m. but had receded to 112 by 3:00 p.m. A range of 101 to 150 is unhealthy for people with medical conditions. A range of 51 to 100 is classified as moderate and is the range most commonly found in California cities.

Kellerhouse reported that the racehorses in training at the SCEC had galloped on Friday and Saturday and that the facility had hosted a jumper schooling show on Saturday. “Nobody that I heard was complaining about their lungs feeling it, but, obviously, people should check the air-quality index on our website and make their own informed decisions,” says Kellerhouse. He added that his wife, Erin Kellerhouse, who has asthma, is planning to ride one of their on horses in the CCI**.

The SCEC sits in a valley protected by mountains, and consequently Kellerhouse said that the SCEC was never blanketed by ash or other particulate matter while the treacherous Southern California fires raged earlier in the week. He said he expects the wind to clear the high-level smoke from the local area in time for the competition to begin.

Of the 155 horses that were evacuated to the SCEC, all but five had left the premises by Saturday afternoon. Two continued their stay at SCEC to compete in the schooling show, and three have not yet returned home because water service hasn't yet been restored to their barn. Kellerhouse said that none of the hotels where competitors will stay in Temecula suffered any damage.

The first veterinary inspection is scheduled for Thursday at 2:00 p.m., with the dressage phase to follow on Friday, cross-country on Saturday, and the show jumping finale on Sunday. Some 30 horses have been entered in the CCI**, 53 horses have been entered in the short-format CCI*, and 20 horses have been entered in the long-format CCI*. Another 240 horses are expected to compete in the national-level horse trials.

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).