

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO STOP A RUNAWAY ONE-HORSE OPEN SLEIGH

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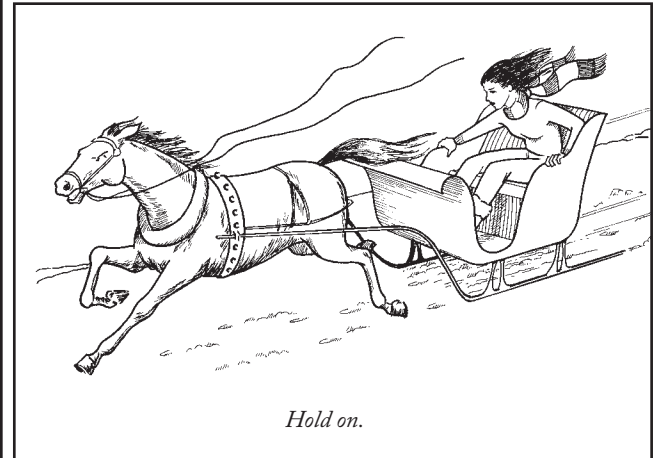
Stay in the sleigh.

Grip the seat or railing with one hand and the reins with the other. Most injuries occur when the rider is thrown, falls, or jumps off the sleigh, hitting the ground or a tree or rock. If you cannot reach the reins or they are loose and dragging on the ground, do not attempt to reach them. Hold onto the sleigh and wait for the horse or horses to tire.

2

Tug and release the reins with a medium pressure.

Repeat until the horse begins to slow down.



3 Do not jerk the reins of a horse that is running at full speed.

Never pull a running horse off balance, which might cause it to stumble or fall. Horses can run at a speed of 25 to 30 miles per hour while pulling a sleigh.

4 When the horse slows to a lope or a trot, pull one rein to the side.

With steady pressure, move the horse's head all the way around toward you. This will cause the horse to begin going in a circle. The horse will quickly tire of circling, begin to feel that you are in control again, and slow to a walk.

5 Pull back with slow, steady pressure on both reins until the horse stops.

Once the horse is at a walk, it is safe to bring it to a complete stop.

6 Dismount.

Be Aware

If a runaway sleigh is coming toward you, do not attempt to grab the horse or the reins. Even if you could grab a rein, that would more likely result in a broken rein than a stopped horse. Let the driver have space to gain control. Standing in front of a runaway horse and flapping your arms will not cause the horse to stop.

HOW TO JUMP FROM A RUNAWAY SLEIGH

Abandoning the sleigh should be a last resort. If the sleigh is headed for imminent peril, however, you will need to jump.

1 Move to the edge of the sleigh.

Remain seated until the last moment, holding on to the seat or railing.

2 Stuff your clothing with blankets or seat cushions to reduce the impact.

Give yourself as much protective padding as is readily available.

3 Open the sleigh door, if there is one.

4 Pick your landing spot.

If you can, wait until the horse rounds a bend, since it may slow down. The ideal landing spot will be well covered with soft snow and free of trees, rocks, and bushes.

5 Crouch low to the floor of the sleigh.

Bend your knees.

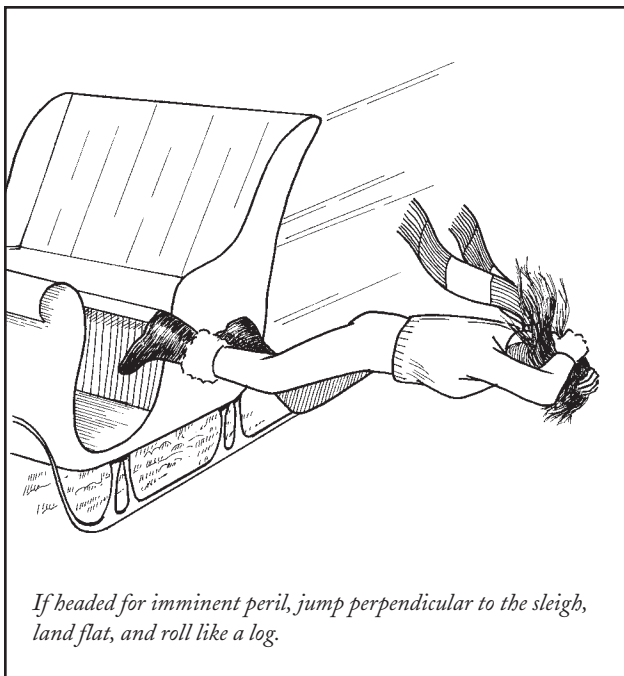
6 Jump perpendicular to the sleigh.

Leaping at a right angle away from the sleigh will make it much less likely for you to fall under the runners. Leap as far away as you can.

7 **Cover your head.**
Use your hands and arms to protect your head.

8 **Land flat.**
Do not attempt to land on your feet or do a somersault. Keep your body straight and try to land so that all parts of your body hit the ground at the same time. This will spread the impact over a wider area.

9 **Roll like a log.**



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