

**Report of Investigation  
Outside Independent Review**

**Client:** West Virginia Racing Commission  
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**Incident:** Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races  
12/13/2014 - 4<sup>th</sup> Race (1 1/16 mile) - The Collector Cup  
Post Time 8:23 pm

**Recommendatons:**

*Warning Alert Notification*

During the running of the 4<sup>th</sup> race on 12/13/2014, the warning alert buttons for both the emergency lights and audible siren were located in the clockers booth on the roof. Both warning alert buttons should be installed in the stewards stand on the roof. This will allow the Stewards instant access to the warning alert system without depending on the clocker to activate the system. It should be noted that at the time of the physical inspection of the stewards stand, this writer observed a warning alert (lights) button.

The Board of Stewards should establish strict written protocols for both morning workouts and evening races pertaining to the activation of the alert warning system and meet with the various track and racing staff to discuss these protocols. Consideration should be given to have a protocol where the warning alert system be tested before the 1<sup>st</sup> race on every race day, and prior to morning works.

There are currently four (4) warning lights located on the race track. They are at the following locations on the race track: 9/16 pole, 3/8 pole, 3/16 pole and the 1 furlong chute (catch pen) fixed to a telephone pole. There are no warning lights located between the 1/8 pole and 5/8 pole.

In reference to the warning alert light at the 1 furlong chute (catch pen), the light can not be seen from the barn area where horses are coming up the graded horse path on to the race track. Consideration should be given to extending the fixed light to the outside so it could be visible to exercise riders, jockeys and all personnel entering the race track from the barn area.

A physical inspection showed the current emergency lights being located within approximately 35 feet from the rail and approximately 8-10 feet in height above the ground surrounded by bushes. It is recommended that all of the warning lights be relocated to at least the 1/16 poles.

### Radio Transmissions

A written protocol should be established to conduct daily radio checks before the first race. This protocol should also be established for morning workouts with the clockers and all race track personnel who have assigned radios.

In addition, the Board of Stewards should consider having a radio inside the Board of Stewards office to allow them, when applicable, to monitor any race track incident involving morning workouts with horses on the race track. This would allow the stewards the ability to monitor any activation of the warning alert system on the race track in the morning.

### Watching the Races

There should be established protocol in the steward's stand when watching races. At least one steward should be outside on the rail watching the race live with binoculars. In reference to the proper placement of outriders on the race track, the Board of Stewards should be monitoring this on a race by race basis and protocols should be written.

Consideration should be given enlisting to the ambulance (paramedic/EMT), while at their stationary location at 1 furlong chute (catch pen), to engage their overhead emergency lights in an attempt to warn the jockeys of a loose horse.

### Early Morning Workouts

The Stewards should consider observing, on a weekly basis, the morning works from the clockers stand to insure that the protocols are being followed. This will also allow the Steward to monitor all radio communications from the various track personnel (Paramedic/EMT, outriders, starter and horse ambulance) in addition to the activation of the warning system (both audible and lights).

### Staff Meetings

With newly established protocols, the Board of Stewards should establish monthly meetings to review and discuss these protocols. This should include meeting with the jockeys. Also, protocol needs to be established when dealing with out of state jockeys or apprentice jockeys. These jockeys should immediately be advised of the protocols.

When there is an accident on the race track either in the mornings or during live racing, a staff meeting should be mandatory for all track personnel and racing officials the next race day to discuss what happened and if the protocols were followed. This should be done for a minimum 6 month period. All of these meetings should be documented in the Stewards Log.

Internal WVRC Departmental Memorandum

Anytime the warning activation system is activated (both during morning workouts and live racing), a departmental memorandum should be submitted to the West Virginia Racing Commission as to the events leading up to the race track incident in question and the follow-up of all established protocols in place.

Positioning (Post Parade) of Outriders:

To maximize the safety coverage of a loose horse or accident on the race track, during the running of the race, strict protocols should be in place to determine the best placement of both outriders at the start and during the running of the race. It would be a good practice for the stewards to observe the appropriate position of each outrider prior to the start of the race.