**ARE YOU RIDING IN THE DANGER ZONE?**

When your stirrups are lying flat against the horse’s side or even as far away as 30 degrees from the horse, the chances of retrieving your stirrups are greatly reduced. The area where your stirrups are either flat against your horse to 30 degrees to the side is called the “Danger Zone”.

For effective, safe riding your stirrups need to be open to the front of the horse and be designed to tend to remain in that position. Seems like common sense, but the fact is that standard English riding stirrups’ natural tendency is to return to a position flat against the horse’s side; exactly where you don’t want them. Any time your stirrups are positioned in the “Danger Zone” you are at risk.

From the Gold Medal Olympic Champion to the smallest pony rider, when you lose your stirrups you want them back and you want them back **NOW**! Riding without one or both of your stirrups is ineffective and can be dangerous. At the least, you are riding out of balance as you try to retrieve your lost stirrup. The tendency of the lost stirrup to turn back to the horse is what I call the “closing door effect”.

Should you fall and your stirrup is turning back to the horse, this is when the ‘closing door effect’ can catch your foot which can result in the most dangerous condition of being drug by your horse. Anything that can reduce this dangerous situation from happening is an improvement in your safety and should be considered basic to your riding self-defense and protection.

**Forward Facing Stirrups for Forward Thinking Riders™**

MDC is the World Leader in Forward Facing Stirrups. We have pioneered and patented forward facing stirrups that improve your Performance, Position, Traction, Comfort and Safety.

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