

IN CASE OF FIRE EVACUATION

Preparing To Care For Your Horse

During an emergency, such as fire or weather emergencies, the time you have to evacuate your horses will be limited. With an effective personal emergency plan coupled with predetermined holding facilities, you may have enough time to move your horses to safety. If you are unprepared or wait until the last minute to evacuate, emergency management officials may tell you that you must leave your horses behind. Once you leave your property, you have no way of knowing how long you will be kept out of the area. To help avoid this situation, the following information and suggestions are offered to help you plan for emergencies.

Do not count on others to rescue your animals. Being prepared for an emergency evacuation is important for all animals, but it takes extra consideration for horses because of their size and their transportation needs. Horses can panic when they smell smoke. If you delay evacuation until fire danger is imminent, you may not be able to control and load your horses.

HOW TO PREPARE:

1. Plan an escape routes for taking your horses to safety.
2. Make arrangements in advance to have your horses trailered in case of emergency.
3. If you have no other safe place contact your local Fair Grounds.
4. If you do not have a trailer or enough trailers for evacuation, arrange in advance for help. Develop a community plan with call up lists for assistance.
5. Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places - including the barn entrance - to ensure they are accessible to emergency workers in case you are not able to evacuate your own horses.
6. Place your horses' papers in a watertight envelope and ready to take with you. It is suggested that this include veterinary papers, identification photos, vital information on medical history, allergies, feeding type, veterinarian, family members with phone numbers.
7. Keep halters ready for your horse. Attach information to halter (Plastic bag taped around halter strap) This should include: Horse's name, your name, your phone contact number, veterinarian name and number, other phone numbers where someone can be reached and any feed or medication instructions.
8. Have a "travel bag" ready at the barn door which can include water, hay, feed, and medications for several days for each horse. (A jar of vicvaper to put on nostrils can help if the horse is smelling smoke) also (A small first aid kit).
9. It is important that your horses are comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded onto a trailer, practice the procedure so they become used to it. Rescuers may not be able to take the time to load an unwilling horse.
10. If you must leave your horses when you evacuate your property, make sure they are wearing halters with ID and turn them loose.

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