

LONG RANGE DISASSTER PLANNING

- 1.** Familiarize yourself with the types of disasters / emergencies that could occur in your area. Develop a written plan of action for each. Review your plan regularly with everyone involved including friends and neighbor. Post emergency numbers in a visible location in your stable or barn.
- 2.** Survey your property for the best location for animal confinement for each type of disaster. Identify food and water sources that do not rely on electricity.
- 3.** Photograph the left and right sides of each horse as well as face and medial and lower legs. Have a photo of your horse with you in the picture, to help identify the horse as yours when picking it up from an evacuation area.
- 4.** Record its breed, sex, age and color and keep copies with important papers. You can permanently identify your horse by tattoo, brand or microchip. Temporary identification by tags on the fetlocks and halters, painted on hooves, or paint on side of horse are options.
- 5.** Keep your horse's vaccinations and boosters up-to-date, dosages and types of medications / health products the animal receives and any dietary requirements. Keep copies of this with your important papers and with your Emergency Plan.
- 6.** Keep your horse trailer and towing vehicle insured, and in good condition, and checked for safety. Keep your towing vehicle gas tank at least ½ full.
- 7.** Make sure your horse will load! Your trailer is useless if you cannot get the horse to go in.
- 8.** Keep hay and supplemental feed on hand. Consider keeping a tranquilizer on hand should a horse become panicked during a crisis – ask your veterinarian what is available and what you are allowed to administer.
- 9.** Have a halter and lead rope designated for each horse and hang it outside its stall or with a posted copy of your evacuation plan.
- 10.** Keep extra feed / hay and buckets ready to go with your horses when evacuated.
- 11.** Prepare a Disaster Preparedness Kit and have it ready to go when evacuating.
- 12.** Transport or prepare to transport your horse to a safe evacuation site. It is best to do this before it is an emergency, even several days in advance. Do not wait until the last minute to remove your animals.
- 13.** If you are unable or unwilling to remove your horses, make sure all the preparations to keep them on the property are in place.
- 14.** If you must leave your horses when you evacuate (mandatory evacuation), make sure they are wearing halters with ID or temporary markings and turn them loose.
- 15.** In developing a personal emergency plan the following information and suggestions are offered: (1) Do not count on others to rescue your animals. (2) Have a prearranged place to take your horses. (3) Plan alternative escape routes to take your horses to safety. Remember fires driven by strong winds can jump roads. (4) Inform friends and neighbors of your evacuation plan. (5) Keep halters ready for each horse with attached information on the halter.

16. Have a "travel bag" ready at the barn door. Suggested items: (1) A jacket for cold nights. (2) Gloves. (3) Horse papers and photos. (4) Extra cotton rope – 20 to 30 feet. (5) Sharp knife, wire cutters. (6) Medical records and medications. (7) First aid kit. (8) Flashlight. (9) Jar of Vicks Vapor Rub to put in horses nostrils. (10) Two way radio if possible.
17. Take action early and be decisive.

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