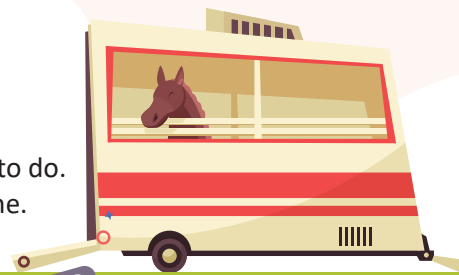


Evacuating Horses During an Emergency

Planning and Preparation

Make a plan for what to do in the event of an emergency such as a wildfire or barn fire. Don't wait to figure it out during the emergency.

- Make sure everyone on the farm and neighbors are familiar with the plan and knows what to do.
- Post the plan in a clearly visible place such as a tack room, barn office, trailer, and your home.
- Have an annual meeting, at a minimum, to discuss the plan and practice it.



Your plan should include at the very least the following:

- Emergency Contacts (Vet, Farrier, Local Officials, Neighbors)
- Horse Information (Health Records, Medications, Identification)
- Farm Map (Access Routes, Water Sources, Inventories)
- Equipment/Supply Checklist (Halters, Leads, First Aid, Feed, Water)
- Sheltering-in-Place Plan (Secure Location, Supplies for 7 Days)
- Evacuation Plan (Transportation, Routes, Evacuation Shelter Site)
- Reunification Plan (Contact Information, Meeting Points, Horse Documents)



Horse Identification

- **Photos:** Take clear photos from all angles, including close-ups of unique markings.
- **Written Descriptions:** Detailed descriptions of breed, color, markings, and temperament.
- **Identification Methods:**

- Neckband with Contact Information
- Livestock Tags or Luggage Tags
- Permanent Markers or Crayons
- Leg Bands or Bracelets
- Clipping or Shaving Information into Fur
- Hoof Branding or Tattoos



Shelter Options

- **Shelters:** Find several horse evacuation shelters before an emergency.
- **Shelter-in-Place:** Best option if safe, ensure 7 days of supplies (feed/water/fuel).
- **Evacuation:** Prepare for transportation and contact evacuation shelter.

Evacuation Procedures

- **Follow Evacuation Orders:** Monitor news and official warnings.
- **Leave Early:** Evacuate as soon as possible to avoid traffic and congestion.
- **Transportation:** Ensure trailers and vehicles are well-maintained and horses are trained to load and unload calmly.



Assess for Damages

- **Assess Property:** Ensure property is safe for your horses.
- **Clean Up:** Remove debris and hazards before bringing your horses home.

Key Points

- **Preparedness is Key:** Emergencies can happen at any time, and being prepared can save lives.
- **Prioritize Safety:** Make decisions based on the safety of both horses and people.
- **Stay Informed:** Monitor weather conditions and public official announcements.
- **Be Calm and Patient:** Emergencies are stressful for both horses and people, remain calm



Remember: The only thing more difficult than planning for a disaster is trying to explain why you made the decision not to prepare.