



When Evacuation Orders are issued, you need to leave NOW! Follow the instructions from local authorities and monitor the news, weather and **county emergency alerts**. An Evacuation Warning allows time for you to evacuate your horses early.



Make an equine emergency evacuation plan and know your county's equine evacuation plan.



If you need to evacuate your horses, make sure transportation equipment is maintained. Conduct regular maintenance checks to prevent malfunctions, especially during an emergency.



Loading a horse onto a trailer can be one of the most challenging aspects of travel, especially in an emergency. It is very important that your horses know how to load onto a trailer or box van. A well-prepared horse is more likely to remain calm and arrive in good condition.

Begin training well in advance of an emergency. Use positive reinforcement to teach your horse that the trailer is a safe space. Practice loading and unloading calmly without rushing. Make sure you have well-fitting halters, lead ropes, protective leg wraps, and non-slip mats for the trailer floor.



Unloading a horse is just as important. Have your horse slowly walk back out of the trailer for safety whether using a straight load or slant load trailer with or without a ramp.



Before reunifying with your evacuated horses, evaluate your property for any unsafe conditions such as debris.

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

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Evacuating Horses

During an Emergency

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

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Make an Evacuation Plan

- Make sure everyone on the farm and neighbors are familiar with the plan and know 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.
- Emergency drills should be conducted at least annually, and more often for high-risk situations. Drills must also be scheduled whenever there is a significant change in the farm's operations, personnel, or potential hazards.

Your plan should include at the very least the following

- Contact Information
- Emergency phone numbers
- Information for each horse
- Yearly health evaluations and vaccinations
- Map of the farm
- Egress routes – primary and alternate in case of road closures/damage
- Horse evacuation kit
- Plan for sheltering in place
 - Alert firefighters by placing placards on property fence gates.
- Plan for an evacuation
- Plan for reunification



It is best to evacuate your horses early when possible. In fast-moving wildfires, horse owners may think their only choice to keep their horses safe is to turn them loose. Loose horses can become a danger to themselves, the public and first responders. Never let horses go completely loose as they can run back into a burning barn or cause a hazard for emergency responders on the roadways. Shelter in Place by releasing them into a cleared, fenced area. Loose or separated horses with some form of identification have a much better chance of being reunited with their owners.

Forms of Identification may include any of the following.

Place a neckband with all relevant information including the horse's name, owner's name, address, telephone number and email address.

Livestock or luggage tags can be securely taped to the halter or braided into the mane.

Make sure to use permanent ink on tags, or duct tape attached to the halter.

Animal body marking crayons or sprays that are weatherproof for marking dry or wet animals.

Leg bands or horse bracelets.

Clipping information into the horses' fur by shaving it. Writing on the hooves with a permanent marker.

Hoof branding.

Tattoos – body, lip or ear.

Equine microchip



It's best to find possible shelter locations ahead of an emergency because temporary emergency animal shelters may have restrictions on the types of horses they can accept or be at capacity. During the emergency you should still check with the county office of emergency services or animal control for emergency animal shelters that are open.



If evacuation is not possible and you need to shelter in place, be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 7 days with feed, water, supplements/medications and fuel for vehicles, equipment and generators in case there is no emergency assistance available.



Before an emergency, take multiple photographs of your horse and of you and your horse. Keep this information current.

- Pictures should include a view from the front, left side, right side, and back.
- Take pictures of any special or unique markings, such as brands, scars, coat coloring, or tattoos.



Prepare written descriptions of each horse and put these in a safe, secure location. If your horses become lost or separated from you in an emergency, you will be able to provide identification information to animal care and control personnel and animal rescue teams.

