



When Evacuation Orders are issued, you need to leave immediately. Follow the instructions from public officials and monitor the news and weather forecast. An Evacuation Warning allows time for you to evacuate your horses early.



If you need to evacuate your horses, make sure transportation equipment is maintained. Conduct regular maintenance checks on your transport equipment 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 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 relocated horses, evaluate your property to make sure it is safe before bringing your horses home. If there was a lot of damage, clean up horses where they are or move them to a closer location for easier access.

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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

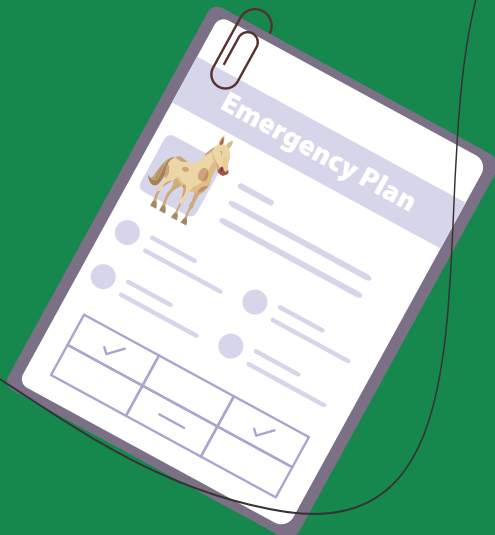
Make a plan for what to do in the event of an emergency such as a wildfire or barn fire. Don't wait to figure it out during the emergency.

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.

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



In fast-moving wildfires, horse owners may be forced to simply turn their horses loose. Horses with some form of identification have a much better chance of being reunited with their owners than those that did not.

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 tags 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 or lip.



Find possible shelter locations ahead of an emergency to prevent finding shelter at the last minute when many others will be also seeking the same.



When safe to do so, sheltering in place is more convenient and better than relocating your horses. It may be difficult to secure enough transportation and alternative sheltering when relocating large numbers of horses. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 7 days with feed, water, supplements/medications and fuel 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.

