



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR LIVESTOCK AND HORSES

PLANNING FOR A DISASTER

Planning is the most effective way to mitigate disaster. As a livestock or horse owner, you realize how particularly important it is to plan for these animals. Their size and shelter and transportation needs make planning for them crucial.

- ★ **Evacuation**
 - Leave early to ensure safe and unrushed arrival to your destination. Plan on leaving a minimum of 72 hours prior to the disaster strike to prevent sitting on jammed highways. If a mandatory evacuation has been ordered, it is too late to safely evacuate a trailer full of livestock or horses. Determine where you will shelter with your animals ahead of time. Potential facilities include fairgrounds, other farms, and racetracks.
 - Remember to bring your livestock/horse disaster kits with your family's when you evacuate.
 - Identify and inspect the method of transport for the animals.
 - Make sure animals are comfortable being loaded onto and riding in a trailer.
 - Post detailed instructions of your evacuation plan in several places like the barn, tack room, office, and home entrances so they are noticeable to emergency responders.
- ★ **Sheltering in place**
 - If you choose to remain in place, or evacuation is not possible, decide whether to confine animals in a shelter or leave them out in a pasture. In most situations, especially when dealing with high winds like a hurricane, livestock and horses are best left outside.
 - Make sure the pasture you place the animals in has no non-native trees, no overhead electrical lines, no debris or sources of debris, no barbed wire, and is not less than one acre.
 - If you rely on electric-powered equipment to cool animals, continue milking, or aerate and supply water, arrange to have a generator purchased and installed. Keep a minimum of one week's supply of diesel fuel or gasoline to power the generator.

LIVESTOCK AND EQUINE DISASTER KIT ESSENTIALS

The following list of items should be assembled in easy-to-carry waterproof containers. Refresh items like food, water, and medications as needed and according to expiration and freshness date indicated on the items' containers. Consult your veterinarian for instructions on putting together a first aid kit and how to use the items that may be contained in the first aid kit. Prepare one kit per animal.

- One-week supply of food (grain and hay)
- One-week supply of water in plastic garbage cans, barrels, or water tanks
- Batteries (flashlight, radio)
- Blankets
- Copies of veterinary records and proof of ownership (picture of you with your animal)
- Duct tape
- Emergency contact list
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Fly spray
- Diet and medication instructions as detailed as possible, including what not to feed
- Heavy leather gloves
- Hoof knife, nippers, pick, and rasp
- Sharp all-purpose knife
- Leather or cotton halters and leads (no nylon)
- Leg wraps
- Maps of local area and alternate evacuation routes
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash cans with locking lids for feed / hay and manure
- Radio
- Rope or lariat
- Shovel
- Tarps/ulins
- Trash bags
- Twitch or nose lead
- Nonbreakable water and feed buckets
- Wire cutters

AFTER THE DISASTER

Above all else, stay calm and stay informed by listening to the radio or television. Do not panic. Follow the directions provided by local, state, and/or federal emergency personnel who are reacting and responding to the situation. Stay in your home until advised that it is safe to venture outside to prevent injuring yourself. Debris may be scattered, flood waters may have encroached, power lines may be down, or other contaminants may be present.

Keep your animals confined to a smaller, secure pasture for the first few days following the disaster as familiar scents and landmarks may be absent or altered. Check all shelter structures and fences for signs of damage and initiate repair. Do not turn animals loose into uninspected areas as they may turn up missing or become injured.

As part of the recovery process, acclimate your animals back to their normal routines as soon as possible.