

# Disaster Planning for Horse Owners

## Ready Your Horses

- **Microchip your horse** as a permanent form of identification—or if that's not an option, identify your horse in some other way such as a tattoo. In an emergency, you can place an ID clip or braid a luggage tag in his mane or tail or paint your phone number on his side with non-toxic paint.
- Get horses accustomed to wearing a halter.
- Practicing loading onto a trailer under calm conditions so horses are on autopilot during an emergency.
- Train the horse to be well-socialized and accustomed to being handled by strangers.
- Consider asking off-duty fire fighters to interact with the horse in their turnout gear to desensitize horses to the look and smell of the gear.

## Prevent On-Site Fires

- Keep a clean and tidy stable and pasture, removing items from around the barn's walkways, entrances and exits.
- Regularly maintain and inspect barn floors and septic tanks.
- Institute a no-smoking policy around the barn.
- Avoid using appliances, even seemingly harmless ones like box fans, heaters and power tools, in the barn.

## Test Your Trailer

- Regularly inspect trailer and its tire pressure, brake battery, safety chains or cables.
- Make sure your trailer has room for all your equines, including a place to tether them inside.

## Locate a Temporary Caregiver

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding facilities.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your horse.

## Plan Your Evacuation Route

- Drive your route so you are comfortable knowing where to go.
- Have at least two routes to your evacuation site in case of road closures.
- Begin your transport as soon as authorities issue an evacuation of your area, if not before.



## Collaborate with Neighbors

- Set up a phone tree/buddy system with other nearby horse owners and local farms.
- Team up with other horse owners to pool your resources, including sharing trailer space and hay.
- Share your evacuation plans with your neighbors.

## Create an Emergency Kit

Make a portable emergency kit that includes the following:

- Tack checklist
- Paperwork proving your ownership of your horse (branding papers, microchip registration, photos)
- Vet records, including a current Coggins test if you have it
- **Equine first aid kit** that includes:
  - » 7-10-day supply of feed and water
  - » Clean buckets
  - » Record of each horse's diet
  - » Record and two-week's supply of each horse's medication, including drug name, dose and frequency along with veterinarian and pharmacy contact information for refills
  - » Antibiotic ointment (*for wounds*)
  - » Antibiotic eye ointment
  - » Cotton bandage rolls
  - » Bandage scissors
  - » Bandage tape
  - » Elastic bandage rolls
  - » Gauze pads and rolls
  - » Non-adherent bandage pads
  - » Cotton-tipped swabs
  - » Betadine® (*povidone-iodine*) or Nolvasan® (*chlorhexidine*), scrub and solution
  - » Isopropyl alcohol/ alcohol prep pads
  - » Eye rinse (*sterile*)
  - » Heavy leather gloves
  - » Twitch
  - » Hoof pick
  - » Knife (*sharp, all-purpose*)
  - » Latex gloves or nonallergenic gloves
  - » Saline solution (*for rinsing wounds*)
  - » Sterile lubricant (*water-based*)
  - » Thermometer (*digital/ stethoscope*)
  - » Tourniquets
  - » Tweezers/hemostat