

## EQUINE EVACUATION

Emergencies such as fire or flood are usually chaotic and frightening, especially when they concern your horses. Don't wait until it is too late! Advanced planning can save you and your horses' lives.

### **Evacuation:**

- ❖ Equine evacuation can be challenging. Develop an evacuation plan and make sure your animals are familiar with being led into a trailer. Having a plan prior to a disaster will help you accomplish a successful evacuation and maintain the safety of your animals.
- ❖ Locate and prearrange an evacuation site for your equines outside the immediate area.
  - Expo New Mexico (State Fair) will be open during an evacuation.
  - Northern New Mexico Horse Arena, Santa Fe, will also be open.
- ❖ Keep trailers and towing vehicles well maintained, full of gas, and ready to move at all times.

**Identification:** Photograph, identify, and inventory your animals. Permanent identification, such as brands, tattoos, or microchips, is best. Temporary identification, such as halter tags, mane clip, luggage tag braided into tail or mane, clipper shaved information in the animal's hair, livestock markers, paint and duct tape with permanent writing will also work. Include your name and contact numbers. Keep identification information with you to verify ownership.

**Disaster kit:** Prepare a disaster supply kit. Your kit should be readily accessible and should be checked monthly to keep the supplies up to date. The kit should contain

- ❖ 3 day supply of food and water source
- ❖ Leads and halters
- ❖ First aid kit (include medications)
- ❖ Emergency contact list
- ❖ Vaccination and medical records
- ❖ Photographs & other proof of ownership (Livestock Board Transportation Permit)
- ❖ Water buckets
- ❖ Battery powered radio
- ❖ Flashlight
- ❖ Spare batteries
- ❖ Duct tape
- ❖ Paper towels
- ❖ Disinfectant, lime or bleach
- ❖ Wire cutters
- ❖ Knife (sharp, all-purpose)
- ❖ Trash bags
- ❖ Tarps
- ❖ Hoof knife, nippers, pick, rasp

- ❖ Bandannas (blind folds) Are these for the horses? Do people still use those blinder things?
- ❖ Fly spray
- ❖ Gloves (heavy leather)
- ❖ Leg wraps
- ❖ Shovel, muck fork
- ❖ Twitch

Your kit should be assembled in an easy-to-carry waterproof container. It should be stored in an easily accessible location. Replace the food, water, and medications as often as needed to maintain their quality and freshness, consult with your veterinarian for advice on making a first aid kit that is appropriate for your individual animals.

**Paperwork and Records:** Store important documents in a waterproof plastic bag. These should include current vaccination and medical records as well as important test results (coggins, etc.). You might want to suggest storing copies of these off site (at a friend's in town, in a safe deposit box, etc.)

**During an Emergency:**

- ❖ Evacuate your family, including your animals as early as possible. By leaving early, you will ensure their safety and ease your stress.
- ❖ Be aware of changing conditions; monitor your television or radio for information. Lt. Rider told us that 770 AM KKOB will broadcast disaster and evacuation information.
- ❖ If you must leave your equines, leave them with enough hay and water for 48 to 72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems. Power may be lost, and in the Knolls, that means no water.

**Action now:** It has been shown time and time again, if you don't make the above preparations in the next 24 hours, the chances are very good that you won't do anything at all to prepare for a fire emergency.

***Remember, your animals are counting on you for their survival and support!***

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