

## Disaster Planning for Farm Families, Ranch & Stable Workers

### Table of Contents:

1. Making Your Plan
2. When to Prepare
3. When to Go
4. If You Can't Evacuate
5. How to Get Help
6. Checklists & Resources

### 1. Making Your Plan

#### PLANNING TIMELINE

Create your Disaster Action Plan NOW. Review and practice year-round.

- Work with your staff and supervisor to help everyone prepare.
- Signup for all local alerts for cell phones and emails.
- Get Alert apps relevant to your area. Such as fire cameras, scanners, Watch Duty where available.
- Learn what different types of weather and emergency alerts and warnings mean.
- Meet your neighbors and their animals.
- Exchange phone numbers with your neighbors.
- Find out what resources you and neighbors can share (Water? Truck? Tractor? Horse or stock trailer? Emergency Elder or Child Care?).
- Make "Go Bags" and "Stay Crates" for people and animals.
- Make Emergency plans for fire, earthquake, storms, and floods.
- Collect Emergency phone numbers for transportation, evacuation, evacuation destinations, and emergency animal shelters.
- Have more than 1 plan for everything.
- Create a network of resources who can help with animal evacuation, care, and farm or ranch infrastructure repairs.



## **HEALTH & SAFETY FOR PEOPLE**

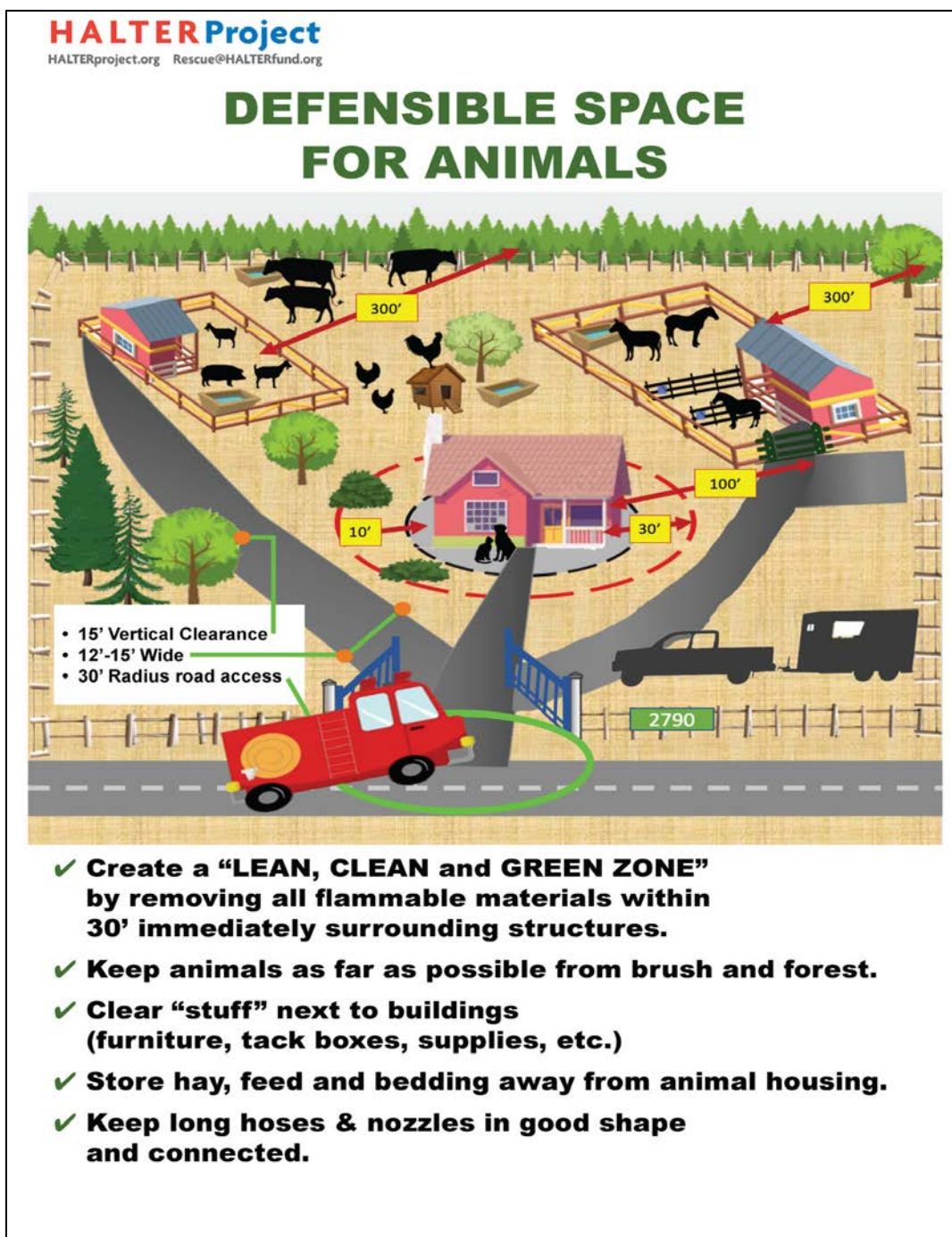
- Make and refresh Go-Bags, First Aid Kits, and Stay-Crates for people and animals.
- You need a plan for evacuation and one for sheltering at home or on the ranch in case you cannot get out.
- Have OSHA-compliant masks for all hazards to which you and your workers may be exposed.
- Try to have supplies and go-bags with essentials in more than one place: Home, car or truck, barn, or shop.
- Check essential equipment & supplies: Pumps, water storage, generators, fuel supply, chain saws, tractors, trucks, other equipment.

## **FARM, RANCH and ANIMAL PREPAREDNESS**

- Maintain defensible space all year long.
- Follow local fire safety standards to maintain defensible space and access to your property, all buildings, and animal areas.
- Remove brush and dead tree limbs near buildings, pastures, pens & fences.
- Clear low branches on driveways and roads for fire engines and other emergency vehicles.
- Get reflective 2-sided address signs for all entrances.
- Practice loading animals in trailers during the day and in the dark.
- Practice loading small animals & small goats, chickens, and pets in crates.
- Have enough halters, lead ropes, leashes, collars for every animal, keep extras in shop, barn, and truck.
- Microchip equines, dogs & cats.
- Document all breeding livestock, equines, and pets.
- Take good photos of equines & pets that show markings, and photos of you with your pets.
- Register gate codes with Sheriff's office.
- Use CAL FIRE, FireSafe, or other regional agency instructions to prepare property for wildfire.
- Remove all flammable things away from homes, barns, buildings: Propane tanks, wood, outdoor furniture, cushions & pillows, umbrellas, pallets, cardboard-recycle bins, rubber and plastic trash cans, fuel cans.
- Place good hoses & nozzles at every corner of buildings and animal pens.
- Keep close watch on wind & humidity.
- Put Ready-Kits and supplies where you can get them quickly.

## FARM, RANCH and ANIMAL PREPAREDNESS (Con't)

- Stay aware of your surroundings.
- Listen to local radio stations.
- Make sure your NOAA radio is turned on.
- Stage a ladder where Responders can access roofs.



## 2. WHEN TO PREPARE FOR EVACUATION?

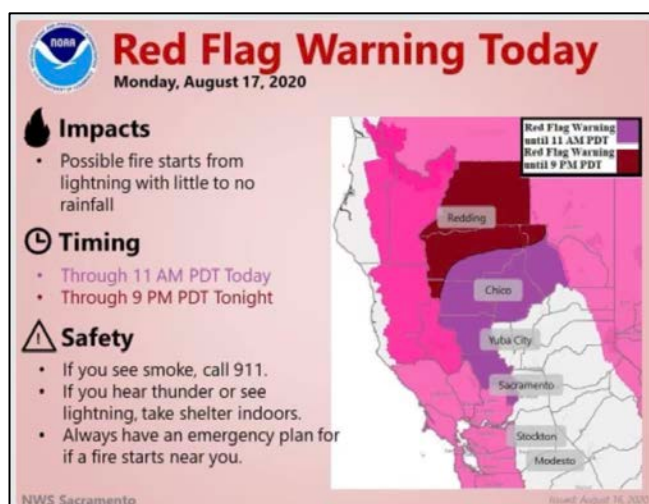
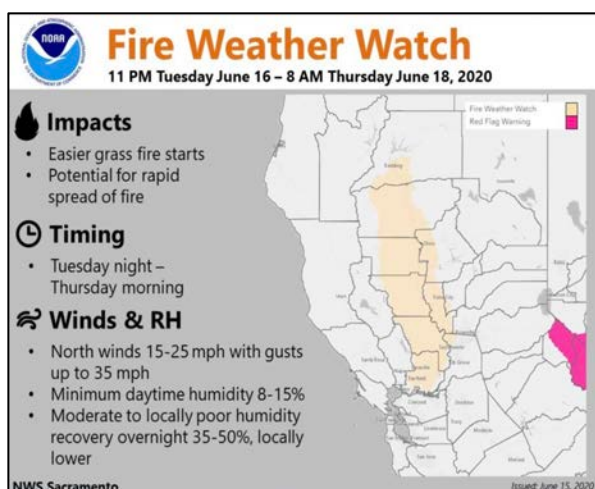
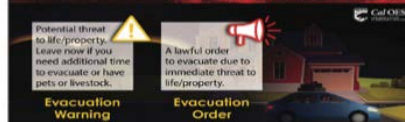
- **FIRE WEATHER WATCH OR RED FLAG MEANS GET READY NOW!**

- Red Flag and Fire Weather Alerts tell you a fire could start any time and move quickly. This is the time to make final preparations.
- Add and fill water troughs.
- Prepare to move animals away from hay and bedding storage areas.
- Prepare pens, paddocks, turnouts & fields: Clean and clear animal areas.
- Increase moisture using sprinklers and hoses in late afternoon.
- Put ID on equines (horses, mules, burros).
- If possible, move animals out of barns & sheds.
- Have a halter or collar and lead rope for every animal.
- Do not lock animals in pens, stalls, paddocks, or barns.
- Get vehicles ready: Fuel up trucks, check tires, brakes, lights, hitches, insurance & registration documents.
- Check trailer tires, hitches, floorboards, lights, door latches.
- Park your trucks and trailers in an open space, facing out.
- Call your emergency horse or livestock haulers (transportation) if you do not have enough trailers for all animals to be evacuated.

### EVACUATE ANIMALS EARLY!

- Get animals ready on Weather Warning days (Fire Weather, Storm or Flood Warning).
- Have a Red Flag Routine.
- Know the Evac Zone for every place **YOU & YOUR ANIMALS** might be.

### KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



### 3. WHEN TO GO

If you plan to evacuate animals, do not wait.

- Elders, children, and people who are sick, or have disabilities, should go as soon as an Evacuation Warning is given.
- Animals and people requiring more time to move should be evacuated during a Red Flag or other Severe Weather Warning.
- Take pets and move equines and other livestock early.

#### **EVACUATION WARNING means DANGER IS NEAR! PREPARE TO GO!**

- Move family members, equines, pets NOW.
- Load Go-Bags, supplies, water in vehicles.
- Load animal and pet supplies.
- Move livestock into their “safe place” pens, irrigated or dry pastures, away from hay, big trees, power lines
- Turn horses out in safe arena, pasture, or pens with fences that won’t burn.
- Leave many full water troughs.
- Remove locks from gates and disable electric openers.
- Move animals out of barns and sheds.
- Remove fly masks, blankets.
- Close doors and gates to barns and sheds to prevent animals from going back in.
- Prepare animals for evacuation.
- Call livestock haulers.
- Close doors, windows, and chimney flue for all buildings.
- Turn on lights.
- Turn off fans, air conditioner.
- Leave electric entry gates open when you go, to help firefighter.



## **EVACUATION ORDER means IMMEDIATE LIFE-THREATENING DANGER.**

- Evacuate all family members and workers immediately if it is safe to do so.
- Follow instructions in Emergency Alerts and law enforcement and fire service.
- Evacuate animals immediately if safe to do so.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, boots, eye protection, work gloves, smoke mask.
- Cotton clothes are best. Do not wear nylon clothing, as it may melt and stick to your skin.

### **4. IF YOU CAN'T EVACUATE**

#### **NEVER LEAVE ANIMALS TRAPPED IN A CONFINED SPACE**

- Turn animals out and close doors to barns and sheds to prevent animals going back inside.
- Remove halters.
- Leave ropes and halters where accessible.
- Notify sheriff or animal control of location where animals are turned loose and may be hazards to responders.
- If you encounter firefighters, tell them about loose animals that might be on the roads.
- Do not leave animals locked in pens or barns, or tied up.
- Open gates to pastures that are not safe.
- Humans should shelter away from flammable buildings, & trees, gas tanks, vehicles, and other hazards, In a pool, pond, or inside a **fire-safe** building.
- Lie face down on the floor. Stay away from windows.
- Cover yourself with a heavy blanket of wool.
- If outside, find a black place fire has already burned, stay there.



## 5. HOW TO GET HELP FOR PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

**If you cannot evacuate and your life is in danger, call 911.**

### **Help for Production Livestock, Equines, Poultry and Dairies**

- Your DAP should be clear and reviewed with workers and family frequently.
- Every jurisdiction has a procedure for helping farmers and ranchers provide care for their animals and continuing safe operations.
- Learn the requirements for obtaining assistance during and after a disaster. Find out if pre-registration or training is required.
- Local resources responsible for production animal welfare in disasters include Ag Commissioner, Cooperative Extension Advisor, Sherriff, Animal Control, Farm Bureau.
- **Contact the correct resource for your area BEFORE disasters happen to do what's necessary.**

- In some areas, call 2-1-1 to speak with someone in your language.
- Try to have animals in a corral or pen, with halters and ropes, and ready to load.

### **Shelters for People, Pets, and Backyard Farm Animals**

- If you do not know where to go, you will receive directions for Emergency Evac Centers and Animals Shelters at roadblocks or Temporary Evacuation Points.
- Keep pets of leashes and in crates in the car. Don't let them jump out!

### **Equine and Livestock Evacuation**

- Large-scale herd evacuation is often not possible.
- Your DAP should identify animals to be evacuated and where they will go.
- Learn in advance where pets, equines, and backyard farm animals can be taken in a disaster.
- Emergency animal shelter locations will be posted by local Sheriff or Emergency Services.

## **HELP FOR PRODUCTION LIVESTOCK**

**For pastured or confined animals, dairies, poultry, rabbits, small ruminates, guardian dogs, vineyard and winery livestock, commercial equine facilities.**

- **PLAN AHEAD!** Contact your County Ag Department, or Cooperative Extension Advisor to learn about Ag Access requirements for workers and resources.
- Many counties require safety training and registration in advance to qualify for Ag Entry/Access document.
- Contact your County Animal Services, or Dept. of Agriculture to find out how to get assistance for the animals on your commercial Ag property.

## **AGRICULTUAL ACCESS & ANIMAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES**

**BUSINESS OR PROPERTY OWNER** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPERVISOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANIMAL CONTROL** \_\_\_\_\_

**AG DEPARTMENT OR COMMISSIONER**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SHERIFF** \_\_\_\_\_

## **HELP FOR YOUR ANIMALS INSIDE EVACUATION ZONES**

**Don't wait for an order to Evacuate!**

During **WEATHER ALERTS** and **EVAC WARNINGS**,  
your prearranged network of helpers & destinations are your best resources.  
Keep contacts updated & easy to find.

**When an EVAC WARNING is issued:**

**Dangerous conditions may exist in your area & could worsen fast.**

**PREPARE TO EVACUATE ASAP**

**WHO?** Call your personal resource network. Check on neighbors.

**WHEN?** Prep during weather alerts. Leave **ASAP** if **EVAC WARNING** is issued.

**When an EVAC ORDER is issued:**

**You are in immediate, life-threatening danger.**

**LEAVE NOW!!**

**Only authorized responders are allowed inside evacuated zones.**

**WHO DO YOU CALL?**

- 911 if human lives are at risk.
- Local Disaster Animal Helplines / Hotlines and / or numbers posted in Emergency Alerts.
- Call 2-1-1 may provide translators in multiple languages

**WHAT KIND OF HELP CAN YOU REQUEST?**

- ANIMAL EVACUATION
- WELFARE CHECKS on animals sheltered in place.  
(Includes water, food, safety & veterinary care, if needed.)
- REPORT LOOSE and INJURED ANIMALS  
(including pets, equines, livestock, wildlife).

## RESOURCES

- [My Family Communication Plan \(CDC\)](#)
- [Wildfire is Coming: Are You Ready? \(CAL FIRE\)](#)
- [CAFF Disaster Resilience Resources](#)
- [Caring for Livestock During a Disaster \(CSU\)](#)
- [Wildfire Preparedness for Horse Owners \(CSU\)](#)
- [Saving the Whole Family \(English & Spanish\) \(AVMA\)](#)
- [LivestockConservancy.org](#)
- [HorsesforClean Water.com](#)

## HALTER Project Resources & Checklists

### [HALTERproject.org](#)

- [Barn & Ranch Safety Packet](#)
- [Car and Truck Ready Kit Checklist](#)
- [Equine Ready Kit Checklist](#)
- [Animal ID](#)
- [Equine ID](#)
- [Ready Kit Coloring pages](#)