

WILDFIRE-READY BARN CHECKLIST

This guide is intended to be an overview of good preparedness practices for all types of places where equines and large companion animals live. It is for boarding stables, riding schools, rescues and sanctuaries, camps, gated equestrian communities, and the owners, staff and boarders, as well as those who keep equines and other large animals at home.

For detailed checklists, refer to the HALTER Project
Barn & Ranch Safety Workbook
halterproject.org/packets

And be sure to sign up for all local emergency alerts, and get evacuation zone information for your area, by visiting your local Emergency Services website, Sheriff's office, or Fire Marshal's office.

LEVELS OF READINESS & ACTION ITEMS

YEAR-ROUND READINESS

Planning

- Make sure everyone is signed up for local alerts.
- Make sure everyone knows all their relevant Evac zones.
- Update all Emergency & Disaster Action Plans
- Review and strengthen evacuation and SIP plans for all types of incidents.
- Schedule regular safety meetings and trainings.
- Schedule mandatory Evac drill with all staff, boarders, and haulers.
- Schedule a risk-assessment visit with local fire agency, FireSafe or Firewise organization.
- Start a Firewise or FireSafe Barn group.

Vehicles

- Schedule regular inspections for all tow vehicles & trailers.
- Schedule trailer skill days to practice hookups, backing, door, gate and partition familiarity, tie procedures.

Supplies, Tools, Equipment

- Make & Refresh Ready Kits
- Inspect tools, supplies, first-aid kits
- Check & restock PPE for all staff & volunteers

Practice and Drill

- Execute yearly Evac drill.
- Practice animal loading.
- Drive Evac routes.
- Visit potential Evac destinations.
- Buildup hauling and destination resources.
- Practice using your FMR or GMRS radios.

Barn and Property

Maintain clean, defensible spaces and buildings.

- Maintain barns, pens, fences, gates, water & utilities.
- Fire extinguishers inspected yearly.
- Check smoke alarms, NOAA emergency radios, and security cameras.
- Inspect all types of batteries & storage.

FIRE WEATHER CHECKLIST

On Fire Watch and Warning Days

- Prep & Implement your Fire Weather Watch Routine!
- Keep phones charged.
- Stay alert and aware of weather conditions.
- Prep, Check, Pack, Fuel up trailer and tow vehicle

Tools, work lights, equipment and supplies

- Halters, ropes
- Pet crates & supplies
- Ready kits
- First Aid kits
- PPE
- Loading – practice!
- Check in with team & destinations.
- Prep rig loading area. Rigs can enter, turn around, and exit without backing up.

Barns, Pens, Pastures

- Hazard hunt
- Check access points
- Clear rig staging & turnarounds
- Clean up
- Generator check and fuel
- Power tool check, oil
- Ladders, shovels, extinguishers, hoses & nozzles

RED FLAG – FAST ACTION NEEDED

- Ready to Go!
- Move difficult and vulnerable animals first.
- Stage all haul rigs for easy loading and exit
- Confirm destinations
- Prep animals
- Confirm haul teams are ready
- Top off troughs
- Increase humidity around barns

RISK LEVELS

Get READY to go if barn location has good access, multiple Evac route options, is defensible, and has transport capacity on-site and staged nearby for all animals.

- Stage all onsite transport
- Load all critical supplies
- Prep animals
- Confirm with destinations
- Confirm team readiness
- Keep all devices charged
- Stay informed
- Be ready to evacuate all remaining equines, companion livestock, pets, and people quickly

Go NOW if barn location has poor access, 1-way in/out, lacks onsite and nearby transport capacity for all animals. Lacks area for loading, turning and exiting without backing up.

- Evacuate all fragile animals now!

- Reduce animal population onsite to the number that can be transported by onsite vehicles and drivers.
- Be ready to evacuate all remaining animals and people immediately if a fire starts in surrounding area.
- Prepare property for emergency SIP of animals who cannot be evacuated.

EVACUATION ALERTS

Mean Immediate Action is Needed.

Evacuation WARNING

- Evacuate all animals and people immediately.
- Contact local Animal Services or Sheriff dispatch if you have incoming large and/or multiple transport rigs or need animal transport assistance.
- Make final preparations for any animals sheltering in place.

Evacuation ORDER

- Notify Animal Services or Sheriff dispatch if you need animal transport assistance.
- There will be no access for unauthorized vehicles into the evacuation zones.
- Leave an Evacuation Tag or note in a Ziploc bag in visible location to let Emergency Services personnel know that all humans and animals are evacuated.
- Notify animal services if there are animals and/or people sheltering in place.

Fire Weather Barn Quick Tips

EVAC PLANNING: ASSESS the RISKS

- Can old or crippled animals be loaded and transported safely?
- How long will it take to load?
- How many rigs and helpers will you need?
- Do you have a plan for sick animals?



Evac Prep to Load and Go

- Contain animals so they're easy to catch and load
- Supplies, equipment, go-kits are loaded
- Rigs are inspected, fueled and staged facing out
- Trailer prepped
 - ✓ Clean, No bedding!
 - ✓ Windows closed



Remember
Your PPE!

Large Animal Evac Prep Are They Ready?

- Will they load?
- Are your helpers ready?
- ID on all
- Good halters & lead ropes for all, plus, extras



How Safe Is Your Property?

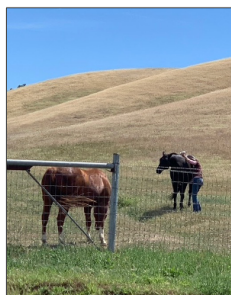
- Is your infrastructure **All-Hazards** safe?
- Will it be accessible **after** a fire or earthquake?
- If **water** is power-dependent, is there a backup source?
- Water tanks and pump secure?
 - Can Responders find and get into your property?



Hazard trees!

Your Animal Refuge Area

- Is it defensible?
- Irrigated or drylot pasture?
- How far from radiant heat sources (heavy brush or timber, big barns, etc.)?
- Secure, firesafe fencing?
- Away from busy roads?



Shelter-in-Place Risks

- Animals may be without care or clean water for several days.
- Animals might get loose if fences are down.
- Possible exposure to fire retardant or water air drops.
- Exposure to ember cast, smoke, heat, toxins.



Credit: 564FirePhotos

Site Prep for SIP

- Remove "stuff" around home and animal areas.
- Increase water storage -- add tanks, troughs.
- Secure troughs so they can't tip.
- Locate hay and bedding away from animals.
- Increase humidity in critical areas.



Animal Prep for Shelter-in-Place

- Add visible IDs.
- Remove masks, halters, blankets, wraps.
- Turn animals out but not loose.
- Close doors to barns and sheds.
- Gates secure but not locked.
- Hose down animals.
- Braid manes, prevent tails from dragging.
- Check for loose shoes.



FIREWEATHER BARN ROUTINE

Prep on Fire Weather WATCH days. Put into action at start of Fire Weather WARNING and RED FLAG periods.

Visit Cal Fire Ready, Set, Go! or your local FireSafe Council or Firewise Community site for defensible space and property access guidance. Your home, barn, property, and vehicles should be wildfire ready before a Fire Weather forecast is issued.

This checklist is focused on your equine, large animal and/or pet animal preparations.

- ☐ Confine animals where they can be caught quickly.
- ☐ Stage halters, lead ropes, leashes, crates and carriers for quick access.
- ☐ Make sure all animals have visible ID.
- ☐ Fuel up vehicles
- ☐ Remove bedding from trailers.
- ☐ Review loading priorities.
- ☐ Prep trailer ties.
- ☐ Load truck copy of your AEP, including animal care sheets and current vax and health records (including Coggins, if needed).
- ☐ Load Go-Bags and First-Aid kits for people & animals.
- ☐ Load feed, water, equipment.
- ☐ Load your Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
- ☐ Stage transport rigs so they are facing out or can turn around without backing.
- ☐ Check in with your helpers and destinations.
- ☐ Confirm reservations.
- ☐ Review travel routes with all helpers & haulers.
- ☐ Transport all top-priority animals during daylight and allow time to return rigs to barn before dark.

RED FLAG SHELTER-in-PLACE PREP

If your Evacuation Plan includes sheltering some animals in place, complete all preparations BEFORE Fire Weather WARNING or RED FLAG begins.

More info at HALTER Project.org

FIRE WEATHER RED FLAG ROUTINE SIP CHECKLIST

- ☐ Have animal refuge areas prepared.
- ☐ Leave extra halters & ropes for every equine in fire-resistant container.
- ☐ Store feed in secure fire-resistant containers 50' (minimum) away from animals.
- ☐ Remove halters, masks, wraps, sheets
- ☐ Braid or trim tails up to hock length.
- ☐ Trim fetlock feathers
- ☐ Check for loose shoes
- ☐ Increase humidity in refuge area.
- ☐ Add water troughs, top off all.
- ☐ Secure troughs so they cannot tip over.
- ☐ Leave gates closed and unlocked.
- ☐ Turn all animals out, but never loose in close proximity to roads.
- ☐ Close barn and shed doors.
- ☐ Deactivate electric gates and fences.
- ☐ Notify Animal Services of animals on site.