ALL-GEO
Home & Ranch Animal Emergency Preparedness

Home & Ranch Animal Emergency Preparedness

This Home & Ranch Animal Emergency Preparedness workbook includes everything needed to prepare for Animal Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place for pets, equines, and/or backyard livestock & poultry.

This workbook includes Emergency Plan Forms for Animals, People, Cars, Trucks & Trailers, First-Aid and Emergency Supply Checklists, as well as Animal Identification and Reunification Forms.

This Animal Emergency Plan Guide helps people with hobby farms, backyard equine or livestock companions, small flocks of chickens, ducks, and other fowl, and Koi ponds.



HALTERProject.org
rescue@halterfund.org



More Emergency Prep Resource for Animals and People



Animal Ready-Kit Checklists

Ready-Kit Checklists

Prepared Barn Project

Prepared Barn Project

Emergency Prep & Planning for Traveling w/ Animals

Animal Travel Prep





PET PREP FOR SENIORS & CAREGIVERS

Pet Disaster Prep Seniors & Caregivers

Plan de Emergencias para Mascotas

All-Geo Plan de Emergencias

HALTER YouTube



Animal Emergency Action Plan & Advance Care Directive Forms

• How to use them **• Where to keep them**

For questions, more information, or to schedule a workshop, contact rescue@halterfund.org

This packet includes 2 forms: an Animal Emergency Action Plan and an Advance Care Directive. These are key tools to help your animals in an emergency.

After you fill out the Animal Emergency Plan form, you'll need to make several copies and keep it where you or someone caring for your animals can find and use it quickly.

- One copy goes with your personal documents in your "grab & go" binder, file or bag.
- Keep one copy in the house where a helper, responder, or pet-sitter can find it easily.
- Give a copy to all the people who might care for your animal(s) if you're not able to.
- Store it electronically along with your other important documents.

Advance Veterinary Care Directive Form

This form is on the back side of the Emergency Plan form. It provides your instructions for the care of your pet or other animals if you are not available.

- Keep a copy with your Emeegency Plan.
- Give a copy to your veterinarian.
- Give copies to the people who might care for your animals if you cannot.

TIPS

- Put copies of your Emergency Plan and Advance Care Directive in ziploc sandwich bag or clear envelope and attach to your refrigerator door, next to your own "File of Life" if you have one.
- Keep a card in your wallet with pet info on it.

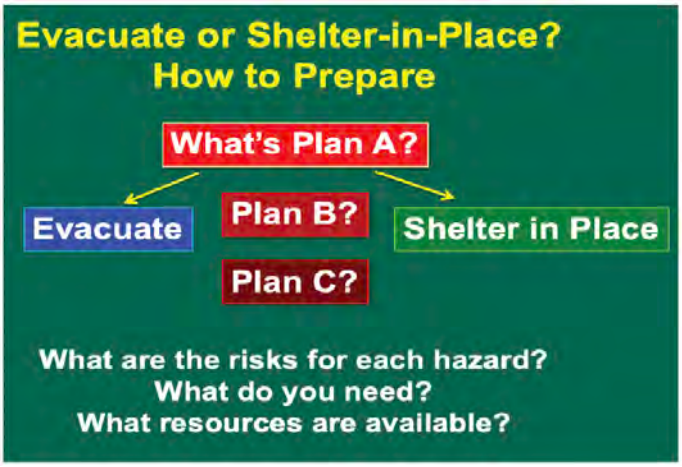
IF YOU HAVE EQUINES or COMPANION LIVESTOCK

- If you have equines or companion livestock or poultry, put a binder or file with this information in a safe place in the barn, garage or outbuilding.
- If you board your horses, make sure the barn manager has this information.
- Keep a copy in your vehicle glove compartment.


ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLAN
For Pets, Equines, Backyard Livestock


Advance Health and Final Care or Pets

Your Emergency Action Plan: Have a Plan for Everything



PREP FOR EVAC AND SIP

Start by making or updating your personal and family Emergency Action Plan (EAP). If you're not safe you can't take care of your animals.

- Include plans for everything that could effect your family, farm, or business.
- Have multiple places to go, ways to get there, and people to help you.
- Have more than one way to get emergency alerts, and to communicate with others.
- Make multiple hard copies
  - » 1 Copy with you.
  - » 1 Copy at home or barn for helpers or responders.
  - » 1 Copy with your vet or trusted out-of-area resources.
- Store all documents electronically.
- Also include a set of all animal insurance documents and Advance Care Directives in your vehicle.

YOUR ANIMAL EMERGENCY NETWORK

Develop your own personal network of animal helpers and evacuation locations.

- Include contact numbers and destinations info for your evac, transport and destination resources updated and quickly accessible.
- If you are a registered commerical livestock producer, your county or regional Ag contacts should be in your EAP.
- If your area has an Ag Pass Program, make sure your info and resources are current and registered with the authorizing agency. This may be the Ag Commissioner, Farm Bureau, or Extension Advisor
- If you are not a registered ag producer, local animal control may be the agency authorizing access inside mandatory evac zones.

Join or form a regional species-specific Emergency Prep Group

- Learn what training and credentials are required to access your animals if inside a mandatory evacuation zone.
- Collaborate as a group to create a directory of resources including: Communications, safe desitnations, panels, and other equipment needs, transport, water, and feed.

Your PPE

- Work boots & gloves
- Helmet & eye protection
- N95 and N100 masks
- Sun & weather protection
- Water
- Meds & cash
- Tool kit

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY CONTACTS

PERSONAL CONTACTS

- ❑ **Transport & Hauling Resources**
- ❑ **Veterinarians**
- ❑ **Temporary Shelter Destinations- Include names, phone numbers, addresses**
- ❑ **Animal Control**
- ❑ **Animal Disaster Hotline Numbers (Where available)**
- ❑ **CART or Animal Evac Team (If relevant)**

AG RESOURCES

If you qualify for access as an ag business, one or more of these will be important to include in your contacts.

- ❑ **Ag Commissioner**
- ❑ **Extension Advisor**
- ❑ **Farm Bureau State Dept. of Agriculture**

ANIMAL DISASTER + EVAC PREP

HALTER Project
HALTERproject.org rescue@halterfund.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Use information provided in Emergency Alerts

ANIMAL CONTROL_____

_____

CART / ANIMAL EVAC TEAM _____

_____

_____

EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTER _____

_____

Call 2-1-1 for Interpreters.
Use info provided in Emergency Alerts.

EVACUATION PREP

When to Prepare: During Red Flag, Fire Weather Warning, Wind or Storm Advisory, and other weather alerts!

- Don't wait for Mandatory Evacuation Orders
- Fuel and stage vehicles facing out
- Prepare safe space with lots of water for animals sheltering in place
- Disable electric gates & garage doors

For animals you cannot evacuate:

- Post signs listing animals & their locations on site
- Pets - leave lots of water and an escape route
- Make sure address is clearly identified
- Leave doors unlocked, hide a key, or take key to Animals Services

PREP YOUR ANIMALS

- Never leave animals locked in barn, shed, coop
- Prep equines by turning them out into a safe, defensible space – DO NOT TURN ANIMALS LOOSE near roadways where they can become hazards
- Make sure all animals wear ID
- Equines – Remove halters, masks, blankets
- Put pets in a quiet, secure room while you prepare to go
- Put on collars, harnesses and leashes

YOUR ANIMAL EVAC RESOURCES

- Develop your own personal network of animal helpers and evacuation locations
- Line up help BEFORE you need it
- Know who to call, where to go, how to get there
- Practice loading animals in the day and night, with a variety of people and vehicles
- Have multiple plans for everything

LOAD & GO

GOES WITH YOU:

- Emergency contacts, vet records, animal ID with photos, microchip information
- Your Ready-kit, tools, first aid, meds, cash

STAYS WITH ANIMALS:

- Contacts, vet records, prescriptions, toys
- Advance Care Directive
- Enough feed, water, medications for min. 30 days
- Halters, ropes, collars, harnesses, leashes
- Carriers, cages, sanitation, bedding
- Animal Ready-kits
- Animal-safe cleaning supplies

Make a Neighborhood Animal Evac Buddy Network & get to know each other's animals!

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR ANIMALS

Everything takes longer and requires more advance planning and time. Always have multiple options and lists of contacts ready, including:

- Pet-friendly motels, VRBOs/AirBnB, friends and relatives, campsites
- Have paper maps, highlighted with multiple routes in different colors
- Make sure pets are secured in cars so they can't jump out
- Make sure you have secure accommodations for pets at your Evac location! Many pets escape from Evac locations and are then lost in unfamiliar surroundings. Take extra precautions!

DO NOT

- Post animal help requests on unofficial Facebook or NextDoor platforms
- Cut fences without owner permission
- Post photos or videos of injured animals, or people rescuing animals.
- Attempt to rescue wild animals.

Top Tips to Keep Your Animals Safe in Emergencies & Disasters

- ✓ Be **personally** prepared.
- ✓ Have a plan for every type of emergency.
- ✓ Pack supplies for GO & STAY.
- ✓ Know how to get all local emergency alerts.
- ✓ Know the Evac Zone for every place your animals, family, and you might be.
- ✓ Know who and how to call for help when you cannot take your animals.
- ✓ Create a Buddy Network.
- ✓ Have a Weather Watch routine and practice with animals and helpers.
- ✓ Practicing can reduce stress! Practice in all kinds of conditions, and with your buddies and their animals.
- ✓ Practice loading pets into car, carriers, and walking on leash or harness.
- ✓ Can you get out of the house with your animals safely and quickly?
- ✓ Practice with your cane or walker, and with a buddy.
- ✓ Make plans together with your animal helpers and buddy network.
- ✓ Have multiple pet-friendly destinations, e.g. motels and AirBnB's, campgrounds, friends.
- ✓ Use Situational Awareness every day: Look Up! Look down! Look all around!
- ✓ Be the calm leader of your pack, flock, and neighborhood.
- ✓ Use apps as backup to Emergency Alerts: NOAA, Watch Duty, USGS, MyShake, AirNow or other AQ app.



Where To Get Info

- Local Emergency Alerts
- Local AM/FM radio, TV
- Weather radio
- Watch Duty app

Reunification Tips

- Microchip your pets, make sure registration is current.
- Add your contact info and name of your apartment complex or facility to your pet ID and carrier.
- Take photos of you with your animals.
- Record a video of their voice and/or special traits.
- License your dog.
- Register pets with Animal Control agency, where possible.

WHEN TO PREP and WHEN TO GO

Weather Alerts & Evacuation Alerts What's the Difference?

Weather Alerts are issued by the National Weather Service. They help Emergency Managers, firefighters, and us, plan and prepare for dangerous weather. Weather alerts provide forecasts for dangerous conditions such as storms, heat, cold, wind, flash flood, fire weather.

- **Weather Watch:** Conditions are right for potentially hazardous weather—get ready!
- **Weather Warning:** Dangerous conditions are likely to impact you soon—take immediate action!
- **Red Flag Warning:** Signals extreme fire danger.
- **Purple Flag:** Particularly dangerous fire conditions.

Evacuation Alerts are urgent notifications issued by local Emergency Services to alert residents in specific locations that they are in danger.

Evacuation Alerts vary from region to region. Be familiar with the levels of evacuation in your region.

Sign up for local Emergency alerts. If your region utilizes pre-identified Evacuation Zones and/or routes, know all those that are relevant to you, your family, and your animals.

✓ Get Evac-Ready on Weather Watch and Warning days so you'll be ready to GO if conditions change suddenly.

✓ If you are evacuating: Don't forget your pet!
Pets are often left waiting in their carriers. Before you leave: STOP, BREATHE, REVIEW YOUR CHECKLIST, LOOK AROUND.

When to PREP

- Weather **WATCH**: Practice and prep.
- Weather **WARNING**: Load go-bags, prep animals, confirm with helpers and destination, leave ASAP.

When to GO

- Be ready to **GO BEFORE** you get an Evac Warning.
- A Red Flag, Flash Flood Warning, or other severe weather warning means **GO ASAP!**

EVAC OR SIP?
ASSESS THE RISKS

DISASTER PLANNING

Evac or SIP?
Assess the Risks

- Human safety
- Infrastructure resilience
- Continuity of business operations
- Animal health
- Bio-Safety
- Product quality protection
- Public perception

Ranch Hazard Awareness

- Hay storage
- Vehicles, fuel tanks
- Structures, EVs, battery storage
- Pressurized tanks, lithium ion batteries, chemicals
- Trees, power lines
- Poor access, visibility, egress

Barn Hardening Checklist

- No flammable clutter inside or outside
- Maintain structures, gutters, vents
- Add extinguishers, hoses & nozzles, sprinklers
- Smoke alarms, security cameras

EVAC LOADING LIST



Applies to equines and many other herd species.



Keep written list updated.



Include detailed ID info & photos.



Review protocol often with staff, volunteers, and clients.



Practice with haulers and barn staff.



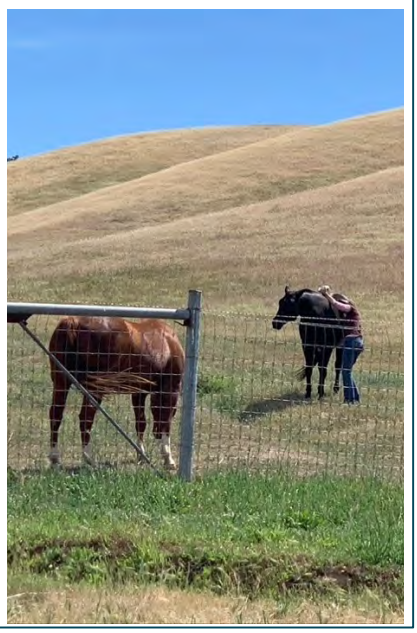
Never separate barn or pasture buddies.



Never leave one of a pair or group alone.

SHELTERING IN PLACE: WILL YOUR ANIMALS BE SAFE ENOUGH?

- Is their home defensible?
- Irrigated or dry-lot pasture?
- How far from radiant heat sources are they?…heavy brush or timber, big barns, residences
- Secure, firesafe perimeter fencing?
- Safe, enclosed animal housing to reduce smoke exposure.



HOW SAFE IS YOUR PROPERTY?

- Will it be accessible after a fire or earthquake?
- If water or fencing is power-dependent, is there a backup source?
- Consider all potential hazards:
  - Wind-blown fire & embers
  - Health impacts of smoke





Credit: 564FirePhotos

Evacuation and Transport Safety

Avoid dangerous travel conditions by moving animals BEFORE Evac Warnings or Orders are issued.



ANIMAL PREP

- Have animals confined for quick catch and load.
- Make detailed, current lists of loading order and of transport hierarchy, if you cannot move all at one time.
- Visible ID on every animal.
- Extra sets of halters & ropes for every equine, and for the relevant small ruminants.
- Practice with your team & your animals.

RIG PREP

- Do a safety inspection.
- Fueled up, hooked up, staged for safest loading and departure.
- Bedding removed and windows closed if you're traveling near wildfire.

Scan QR codes for detailed truck, trailer, and barn safety checklists.

ROAD or TRAILER ACCIDENT – WHAT TO DO

- Call 911
  - State LOCATION and SITUATION clearly
  - Ask for immediate equine veterinary assistance
  - Ask if an ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM is available
  - State number of vehicles and types
  - State number of animals
  - When help arrives stay focused and follow orders
  - Ask Scene Commander to minimize sirens, flashing lights, and bright lights shining directly into eyes of horses

Barn & Trailer Safety Checklist

DOCUMENTS

- Animal insurance policy info, Agent, emergency number
- Animal ID & health info
- Owner & Proxy contacts
- Trailer Model info (may be very helpful to first responders!)

EMERGENCY & SAFETY KITS

- First aid for animals & people
- Reflector signs & vests
- Work gloves
- Flashlights, headlamps, flashing lantern
- Thick cotton rope (2 x 20')



If using a commercial hauler: Make sure resource has contacts for insurance carrier and owner, and your directive for humane euthanasia.

HELP RESPONDERS HELP YOUR ANIMALS

Get accurate information about weather, evacuations, and other emergencies to help you and your animals stay safe.

✓Sign up for local Emergency Alerts.

✓Get, and use the Watch Duty App.

✓Use an emergency weather radio.

Your City, County or State Emergency Services agency may provide the opportunity to pre-register information about your pets and large animals. This information **speeds response and increases safety** in an emergency or disaster.

Contact Animal Control, local or regional Animal Response Team, (CART, DART or SART), or Dept. of Agriculture to find out if this service is available and how to register.

Smart911

If available in your community, your SMART911 profile can include pets and large animals. This info alerts responders to animals in your home or premises.

Put an **Animal Alert Sign** in a visible location for pets left behind.





If used where you live, hang the **Evacuation Tag** where it's visible from the street **when you leave** your home.



HIDE A KEY FOR RESPONDERS

HOW TO REQUEST HELP FOR ANIMALS YOU CANNOT EVACUATE:

9-2026

If you are not able to evacuate some or all of your animals, call the Animal HOTLINE or Animal Control Emergency number.

- Call when you are safe.
- You can also ask a trusted friend, neighbor, or caregiver to call for you.

WHO HELPS THE ANIMALS?

- Authorized Animal Responders working with Emergency Services
- During evacuations, Sheriff Deputies will not be able to rescue animals, other than a Service Animal accompanying a human.

MAKE A SITE MAP OF YOUR PROPERTY

XYZ Ranch
12345 Your Road, Your Town, Your Zip

Contact 1: Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Contact 2: Name: _____ **Phone** _____

EVAC TAG



Equines: ___Mares ___Foals ___Geldings ___Stallions _____Minis

Cattle: Quantity: _____

Barn Cats: Quantity _____ Names _____

Dogs: Quantity _____ Loose? _____ In kennels? _____ Friendly? _____

Chickens / Poultry:

Small Ruminants:

Water Troughs:

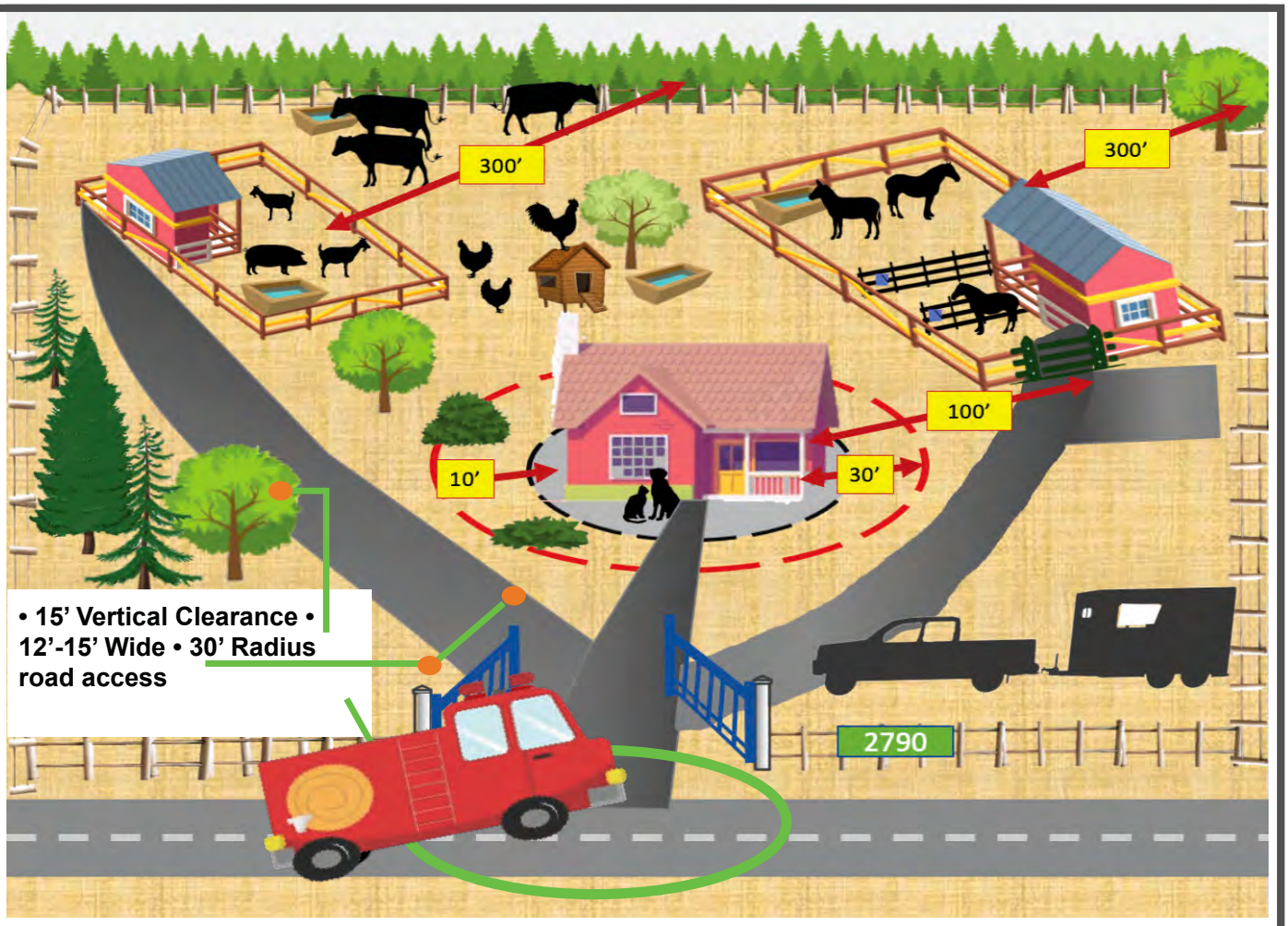
Evacuate or Shelter in place (SIP)?

NOTES:

Electric Vehicle & Charger

Hazardous Materials

SAFER HOMES FOR PEOPLE & ANIMALS



Around Your Home

- ☑ Keep area clear of anything flammable 5' around home.
- ☑ Keep gutters & drains clear of leaves, pine needles & grass.
- ☑ Keep pets, bedding, and toys away from heaters, stoves & campfires.
- ☑ Remove flammable doormats, furniture, cushions, umbrellas, etc. on Fire Weather days.
- ☑ Maintain safe property access for Emergency vehicles.

House, Barn & Pastures

- ☑ Keep your property CLEAN & safer for firefighters to defend.
- ☑ Keep your animals as far as possible from brush & forest.
- ☑ Store hay & feed as far from animal and human housing as possible.
- ☑ Maintain safe access and clearance for emergency vehicles.
- ☑ Put reflective address signs where clearly visible.

Plan Ahead for Power Outages

PETS & PEOPLE

- Create a home cooling station for pets & people.
- Remember: Kids, people with special needs, pug-nosed cats and dogs, rabbits, and birds are all especially vulnerable to heat.
- Know what to do for people dependent upon medical equipment.
- Stock up on meds & medical supplies.

EVERYONE

- Gas stations won't be open!
- EV charging won't be available.
- Stock up on fuel for generator.
- ATMs may not work; have cash on hand.
- Have good LED headlamps and laterns.

EQUINES & LIVESTOCK

- Automatic systems on PG&E will not function, including:
  - * Waterers
  - * Irrigation
  - * Fans & insect repellent dispensers
- Automatic security, gates, doors, alarms.
- Stable equipment: refigerators, sterilizers, washers, dryers.
- Fish pond aerators and filters.

WATER

Prepare for minimum of 7-10 days & high temperatures.

GALLONS REQUIRED PER DAY

People & Pets: 1-2

Equines: 15-20

Cattle: 9

Pigs: 2-4

Small Ruminants: 1

Poulty: 5 (per 100

Turkey: 12 (per 100)

COMMUNICATIONS

- Get a communications app or satellite phone.
- Have solar power source for charging cell phones, tablets, computers.
- Have extra batteries for everything!

GENERATOR SAFETY

- Does your permanent generator meet needs?
- Know the safety protocols for temporary generators!
- More info:
  - * **pge.com Generator Safety**
  - * **SafeElectricity.org**

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HALTERproject.org

FOOD SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Do you have an emergency plan?
- Will power outages impact your food storage, and/or waste management systems?
- Safe food storage... will you have enough capacity?

BIOSECURITY

- Be aware of current disease alerts and quarantines.
- Untrained helpers may unknowingly spread disease.
- Know how to contact authorized animal response resources.

PROPERTY ACCESS

- Know how to disable electric gates, garage doors, security systems.
- Have clearly marked entrance and signage throughout property.
- Provide access for emergency and evacuation vehicles, including: gates, trees, road and driveway conditions and adequate space for turnarounds.

PET & EQUINE VITAL SIGNS

- Learn what's normal for **YOUR** animals.
- Vitals vary depending on animal's size, weight, age.

	Temp.	Pulse	Beats / Mn.
	100.5 to 102.5	150 to 200	20 to 30
 <30 lbs.	100.2 to 102.8	60 to 160	20 to 30
	100.2 to 102.8	60 to 100	10 to 30
	99 to 101	28 to 44	10 to 24
	95.5 to 102.1	80 to 100	20 to 40

Are You & Your Barn Buddies Quake & Tsunami Ready?

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

- Have regular professional barn structural inspections.
- Look for hazards that can fall or break, injuring animals and people, such as heavy and breakableobjects, pipes, light fixtures, fans, tools, supplies.

DO NOT ENTER A BARN THAT IS:

- Tilted
- Has collapsed roof or walls.
- Is off its foundation or has floor damage.

KNOW WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- Drop, Cover, Hold On!
- Protect your head!
- Go outside as soon as shaking stops!
- If you're trapped: Shout repeatedly, use a whistle if you have one.
- If equines and/or people are trapped: Call 911 and say,"Collapsed barn with animals and possible humans inside".
- Do not attempt rescue yourself!

TSUNAMI SAFETY

KNOW YOUR ZONE!!

If you ride, board or compete in a low-lying coastal area:

- Make sure you know how to get Emergency Alerts.
- Learn the signs of a Tsunami.
- Learn the evacuation routes and safe refuge areas.

RESOURCES

EarthquakeCountry.org

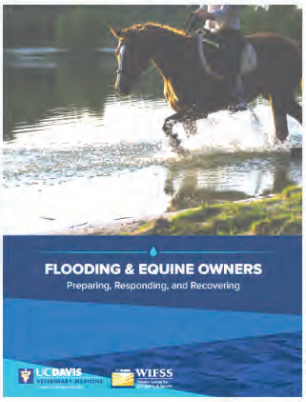
weather.gov/safety/tsunami

HALTERproject.org/ preparedness-resources

Flood Prep Resources

Flooding & Equine Owners: Preparing, Responding, Recovering

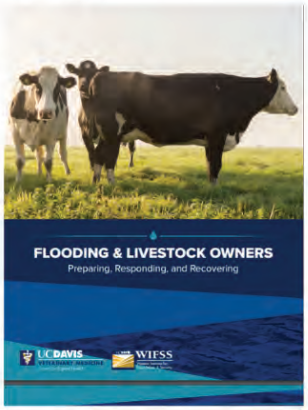
Flooding can be dangerous not only for horses but for ranchers and their employees as well. Six inches of moving water can topple an adult, and as little as 12 inches can sweep a vehicle off the road.



This pamphlet describes actions EQUINE owners can take to prepare.

Flooding & Livestock Owners: Preparing, Responding, Recovering

Flooding is the most common and costly disaster experienced by U.S. citizens. For livestock operations, structure damage and the loss of feed, animals, and genetic potential can be financially crippling.



This pamphlet describes actions LIVESTOCK owners can take to prepare.

Flood Injury in Horses

- Disease Prevention
- Response
- Triage & Medical Treatment
- Handling & Restraint
- Hoof Problems
- Ophthalmic Injuries
- Respiratory Disease
- Gastrointestinal Dysfunction



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EQUINE Emergency Preparedness

Animal owners, and especially owners of horses and livestock, must rely on themselves to take care of their animals in a disaster. Make sure your emergency plan includes the following 10 points.

UC DAVIS
One Health Institute
School of Veterinary Medicine
Veterinary Emergency Response Team

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ANIMAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE
HALTERproject.org

SCAN to DOWNLOAD ARTICLES!

DRINKING WATER SAFETY FOR PEOPLE & ANIMALS

During & after natural disasters your home, farm, or community water supply may be contaminated or unavailable
Ensure that your water is safe for drinking & hygiene
Germs and Chemicals may be in the water.
Listen to local officials to find out if your water is safe.

All water of uncertain purity should be treated before use.

You may be without a water supply unless you have prepared and stored water. The guidelines below explain what to do in a "boil water" emergency and how to store water and use it safely.

Use bottled water for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth if possible.

If bottled water is not available, choose one of the following methods to make your water safe.

Water contaminated with harmful chemicals or toxins cannot be made safe by boiling, disinfecting, or filtering

BOIL

This method will kill bacteria, viruses, and parasites.



Boil your water for 1 minute.
At elevations above 6,500 feet, boil for 3 minutes. Let the water cool.

DISINFECT

This method will kill most viruses and bacteria.





Wait at least 30 minutes before using.

PURIFICATION & FILTRATION:

Products such as purification tablets, lifestraws or similar devices

Storing Water Safely:

- Use the right container
- Keep the area clean & secure
- Sanitize before filling
- Start with a clean source

Tips for storing water from your home:

- Label container as "drinking water" and include storage date.
- Replace water every six months.
- Keep containers in a place with a cool temperature (50°F –70°F).
- Keep containers away from direct sunlight.
- Keep containers away from toxic substances, such as gasoline or pesticides.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Learn more:
www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/making-water-safe.html

WATER STORAGE & TRANSPORT

CHOOSE WHAT YOU CAN SAFELY CARRY & STORE

WATER: GALLONS REQUIRED PER DAY

Humans: 1.5 - 2	Equines: 15 - 20
Dogs: 1 oz. per pound	Cattle: 15 - 30
Cats: 5 - 10 oz	Pigs: 2 - 4
Birds: 5% of body weight	Small Ruminants: 1 - 2
Rabbits: 1.5 - 5 oz per 2 lbs. body weight	Poultry: 5 (per 100)
	Turkey: 12 (per 100)



JerryCan 5 gallons



AquaBrick Water & Food storage 3 Gallons

Plastic Drum with Ring Lock 16 Gallons



Stores 20 gallons of water for up to 5 yrs





Complete Water Storage System 55 Gallons



Barn Fire Safety Checklist

Mrs. O'Leary's Cow may have gotten a bad rap but the folktale reminds us fire safety is an important part of farm life. People, animals, and property are in danger when fire breaks out on the farm. Inspect your barn and outbuildings for fire hazards to reduce the risk of tragic loss.

- ✔ Heat lamps and space heaters are kept a safe distance from anything that can burn.
- ✔ Heaters are on a sturdy surface and cannot fall over.
- ✔ Electrical equipment is labeled for agricultural or commercial use.
- ✔ All wiring is free from damage.
- ✔ Extension cords are not used in the barn.
- ✔ Lightbulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture, and breakage.
- ✔ Damage is identified quickly and repairs are completed with safety in mind.
- ✔ Dust and cobwebs around electrical outlets and lights are removed.
- ✔ Oily rags are stored in a closed, metal container away from heat.
- ✔ Feed, hay, straw, and flammable liquids are stored away from the main barn.
- ✔ The barn is a smoke-free zone.
- ✔ Exits are clearly marked and pathways are clear.
- ✔ Fire drills are held frequently with everyone who uses the barn.
- ✔ Workers are trained to use fire extinguishers.
- ✔ Everyone in the barn knows personal safety is the first priority if a fire breaks out.
- ✔ Hazard checks take place on a set schedule.

Required Equipment

The following safety equipment may be required by local building codes and will help protect your barn. Install and maintain:

- ABC-type fire extinguishers near every exit and within 50 feet from any point in the barn.
- Fire alarm system
- Sprinkler system
- Carbon monoxide detection system



Talk with your local fire department to address safety concerns unique to your farm.

Go to www.nfpa.org/farms to learn more about fire safety on the farm.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

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Ontario

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Spontaneous Combustion and Hay Fires

Lives have been lost and hay crops destroyed because of fires caused by spontaneous combustion. This year has been particularly bad for hay heating due to the hot humid weather. If the hay crop is put into the mow above 20-25% moisture content, spontaneous combustion may occur.

A hay crop that is placed too wet into a mow will heat rapidly. If the mow is so large that heat loss is restricted, the internal temperature will rise. As the temperature rises above 130°F (55°C), a chemical reaction occurs and may sustain itself. This reaction does not require oxygen, but the flammable gases produced are at a temperature above their ignition point. These gases will ignite when they come in contact with the air.

Check your hay regularly. If you detect a slight caramel odour or a distinct musty smell, chances are your hay is heating.

What do you do if you suspect that your hay is heating? First of all, make yourself a simple probe that can be inserted into the hay mass to check the temperature. A probe can be made from a 10 foot piece of electrical tubing. Rivet a hardwood pointed dowel to one end and drill 8 - 3/16 inch diameter holes in the tube just above the dowel. Drive the probe into the hay mass and lower a candy thermometer on a long string into the probe. The thermometer should be left for 10 minutes to ensure an accurate reading.

Watch for the following temperatures:

150°F (65°C) ** **Entering the Danger Zone.** Check temperature daily.

160°F (70°C) ** **Danger!** Measure temperature every four hours and inspect mow.

175°F (80°C) ** **Call the Fire Department!** Wet hay down and remove from the barn.

185°F (85°C) ** **Hot Spots and Pockets May be Expected.** Flames will likely develop when heating hay comes in contact with the air.

212°F (100°C) **Critical!** Temperature rise is rapid above this point. Hay will almost certainly ignite.

Caution: Before entering the mow, place long planks on top of the hay. Do not attempt to walk on the hay mass itself. Pockets may have already burned out under the hay surface. Always tie a rope around your waist and have a second person on the other end in a safe location to pull you out should the surface of the hay collapse into a fire pocket.

Extreme caution should be taken when fighting a hay fire if hay has been treated with chemical preservatives. Hay treated with preservatives containing ethoxyquin and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene) will produce hydrogen cyanide gas at around 240°F (115°C). This gas is very deadly. Additives containing primarily propionic acid to not produce hydrogen cyanide during a fire.

Many farmers sprinkle salt on hay as it is stored, in an effort to prevent hay fires. However, tests have shown that salt has no effect on controlling spontaneous combustion. Dry ice, liquid nitrogen or carbon dioxide gas pumped into the hay will prevent combustion by eliminating the oxygen from the hay mass.

Spontaneous combustion is not an accident. By following good storage practices, not only will spontaneous combustion by avoided, but a higher quality of hay will be obtained.

For more information:
Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300
E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca



Minimizing Wildfire Risk on Horse Properties

Wildfire is a very real concern for horse owners, especially with a warming planet and for those who live in the dry climates of the American West. Extreme temperatures, limited summer rainfall, strong winds, and lightning storms all lead to high fire danger. Windblown embers from a nearby fire can travel a mile or more, landing on and igniting buildings or other combustibles and putting you and your horses at risk. This checklist will help you identify and reduce wildfire threats on your horse property, farm, or ranch.

☐ Create defensible space around important structures

Defensible spaces are areas that are landscaped and maintained to reduce fire danger by keeping vegetation and combustibles to a minimum. Having a defensible space reduces the risk that fire will spread to or between structures on your property, and provides firefighters and emergency officials with a safer defense point should you have a fire. **A minimum defensible space of 100 feet is recommended for homes and outbuildings on flat ground**. Because fire acts differently on hillsides, **defensible space for structures on sloped sites should be at least 200 feet.**

☐ Choose firewise landscaping

Choose landscaping plants that have high moisture content, high salt or soap content, low-growing/ compact growth, low oil or resin content, green stems, small leaves, or high drought tolerance. Visit https://thehorse.com/135408/firewise-landscaping-for-horse-properties for examples.



☐ Remove flammable yard decorations

Replace wooden patio furniture, brooms, flower boxes, flammable doormats (such as the popular coconut mats), and other combustible items with non-flammable varieties made out of metal or ceramic.

☐ Opt for non-flammable fencing

Not only will wooden or plastic fencing burn in a fire, but it can draw a fire right to your barn. Replace flammable fencing with non-flammable options such as metal panel fencing or welded pipe.

☐ Replace combustible siding or roofing

Cedar shake shingles, wood, vinyl, and plastics can all catch fire easily. Replace combustible roofing and

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siding with non-combustible options such as metal, tile, brick, or adobe. Green roofs are also an excellent option with the added conservation benefits of slowing water runoff, conserving energy, improving air quality, reducing noise, and providing wildlife habitat.



☐ Clear weeds and debris

Weeds like cheatgrass are extremely flammable when dry. Remove weeds through grazing, mowing, prescribed burning, or herbicide use. Keep vegetation that is within 100 feet of structures grazed low and green during fire seasons. Regularly clear leaves and other debris out of your gutters, off of your roofs, and away from the base of each structure. Check rafters for cobwebs, which can trap dust and flammable debris.

☐ Store combustible items away from important structures

Hay, bedding, large manure piles, and livestock feed should be stored away from stables in a dry, covered area. Maintain a 12-30 foot firebreak of cleared land such as a gravel driveway, concrete pad, or dirt path between storage areas and other structures. Keep propane and other fuels 30 feet from buildings, wood fences, and other structures. Regularly clean up wind-blown debris or weeds that accumulate in these areas.

☐ Practice basic barn fire safety

Inspect electrical systems and replace damaged wires. Install smoke detectors and replace batteries every six months. Keep fire extinguishers next to doorways in barns and in vehicles and tractors. Keep barn aisles and doors clean and free of obstruction to provide quicker access in an emergency. Post important phone numbers (barn manager, vet, etc.) and your barn's street address next to the phone for easy reference when communicating with emergency personnel.

☐ Prepare for emergency response personnel

Post your address at the entrance to your property in a spot that's clearly visible from the road. Make sure fire trucks and emergency vehicles can access your property by checking for overhead utility lines, tree branches, ranch gates or signs, rocks or other landscaping, or other potential obstructions.

Remember: Even with the best defensible spaces, sometimes evacuation is the best option when wildfire is imminent. Planning and preparing for an emergency evacuation ahead of time will help keep everyone safe. Refer to Horses For Clean Water's FREE Firewise Evacuation Checklist for help creating your evacuation plan *before* the threat of wildfire becomes real.

http://www.horsesforcleanwater.com/tip-sheets/firewise-evacuation-checklist

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EQUINE READY-KIT

- ✓ First-aid kit with EVERYTHING
- ✓ Hoof care tools
- ✓ Climbing rope
- ✓ Extra halters & lead ropes
- ✓ Long butt-rope
- ✓ Fly spray & stick
- ✓ Leg wraps
- ✓ Fly masks
- ✓ Liniment
- ✓ Treats
- ✓ Towels, assorted buckets
- ✓ Slow-feed hay nets
- ✓ Feed & water in trailer & arena
- ✓ 1 gal. metal can w/handle
- ✓ EZ boots
- ✓ Vicks in a tube
- ✓ 1 mane-tail comb
- ✓ 1 coat brush
- ✓ Fly sheets in a vacuum bag
- ✓ Hose, nozzle

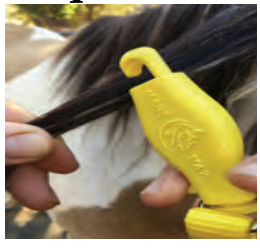




EQUINE ID

- Use multiple forms of ID
- Micro-chip! Keep updated!
- ManeStay ID tags, halter wraps w/ contact info
- Livestock ear tags & markers
- Livestock crayons and paint
- ID Tags & Markers
- Reflective neck and fetlock bands
- Giant markers
- Duct Tape (Reflective or Neon)
- Registration, Vet Records
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Directives: What to do and amount of expense approved
- White Board listing all animals & locations
- Photos of you with your pets and equines







HALTER Project

HALTERproject.org/preparedness
rescue@halterfund.org

EQUINE & STABLE READY KIT

- ❑ FOOD & WATER
- ❑ Sharpie, pen, paper
- ❑ Grooming supplies
- ❑ Buckets / Feed bins
- ❑ Towels, Blankets
- ❑ Hoof pick, shoe puller, twitch
- ❑ Tarps, hammers, shovels, wire cutters
- ❑ Utility ropes, zip ties, carabiners
- ❑ Ammonia reduction product
- ❑ Chlorine bleach
- ❑ Disinfectant (Accel, Rescue, Intervention)
- ❑ Dawn detergent
- ❑ Scrub brush, sponge
- ❑ Hose and nozzle
- ❑ Heavy duty trash bags
- ❑ Gloves & muck boots
- ❑ Fly masks, sheets (Note: Do not shelter in place or transport with fly mask, blankets or other flammable items on animals!)
- ❑ Emergency Plan Binder
- ❑ Proof of Ownership, Microchip, brand info
- ❑ Vet contacts
- ❑ Health records
- ❑ Pet insurance docs
- ❑ Medical Directives
- ❑ Photos with you and your pets
- ❑ Headlamp, hanging LED lantern
- ❑ Slow feed hay net
- ❑ Animal marking crayons
- ❑ Portable generator & fuel
- ❑ Charging devices
- ❑ Nitrile gloves

WATER

GALLONS REQUIRED / DAY

- **HUMANS 1-3**
- **EQUINES 15-20**
- **CATS & DOGS 1**
- **CATTLE 9**
- **PIGS 2-4**
- **TURKEY 12 (/100)**
- **SMALL RUMINANTS 1**

EQUINE/LIVESTOCK BASIC FIRST AID KIT

- ❑ FOOD: Minimum 7 days; if sheltering in place minimum 10 days
- ❑ WATER: Minimum 10 days if sheltering in place or power outage
- ❑ Leather & cotton halters
- ❑ Lead ropes
- ❑ Current medications, supplements, treats
- ❑ Pain meds
- ❑ Calming meds
- ❑ Iodine
- ❑ Saline
- ❑ Rubbing alcohol
- ❑ Menthol rub
- ❑ Butterfly closure tape
- ❑ Antimicrobial wound spray
- ❑ Antimicrobial Bandage Roll
- ❑ Eye irrigation solution
- ❑ Brown “cling” gauze
- ❑ Self-adhering wrap
- ❑ Honey and cheesecloth
- ❑ Poultice / Epson Salt
- ❑ Duct Tape
- ❑ Telfa non-adherent pads
- ❑ Porous elastic adhesive tape
- ❑ Stable bandages
- ❑ Bandage scissors
- ❑ Penlight / flashlight
- ❑ Rectal thermometer
- ❑ Stethoscope
- ❑ Electrolytes
- ❑ Cold packs
- ❑ Splinting materials
- ❑ Syringes
- ❑ Easy Boots

HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS TO RECEIVE INFORMATION

- **LOCAL ALERTS**
- **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**
- **PHONE APPS**
- **SATELITE RADIO**
- **WALKIE-TALKIES**

EQUINE VITAL SIGNS

Info provided by CVET

MUCOUS MEMBRANES

moist, pink

CALL YOUR VET IF:

tacky, white, red, or blue/purple

CAPILLARY REFILL TIME

<2 seconds

CALL YOUR VET IF:

> 3 seconds

TEMPERATURE

99-100 °F

(37.2 - 38.3°C

CALL YOUR VET IF:

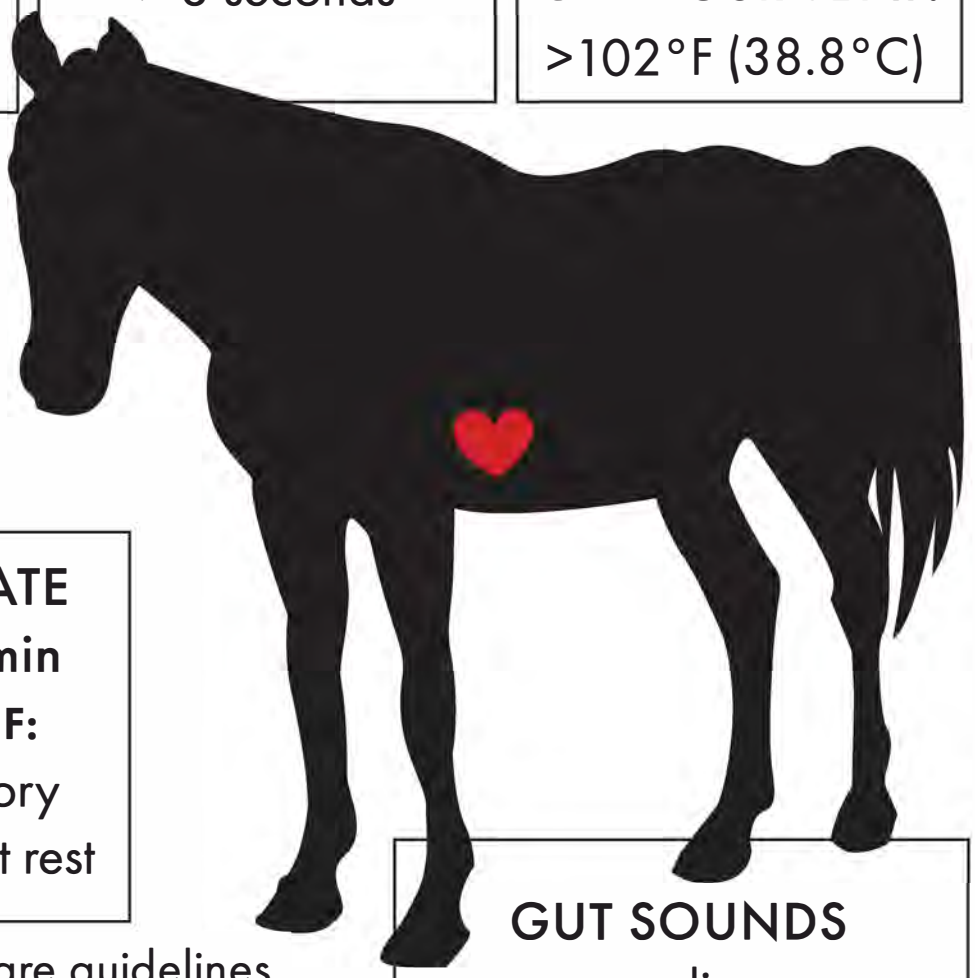
>102°F (38.8°C)

HEART RATE

28 -44 (bpm)

CALL YOUR VET IF:

> 48 bpm at rest (if not stressed)



RESPIRATORY RATE

10-24 breaths/min

CALL YOUR VET IF:

increased respiratory effort or >28 bpm at rest

GUT SOUNDS

gurgling

(at least one sound/min)

CALL YOUR VET IF:

no gut sounds

NOTE: These values are guidelines. Always take into account the other variables that may be affecting your horse's health and call your vet if you are concerned about your horse's comfort level.

Knowing the normal values for you horse's vital signs can help you and your veterinarian respond quickly when your horse is sick. Keep in mind that values may vary with extreme weather temperatures, strenuous excercise and stress.

Normal Vital Signs

California Veterinary Emergency Team

Species	Heart Rate (beats/min)	Resp Rate (breaths/min)	Temperature (°F)	Mucous Membranes	Capillary Refill Time	Gastrointestinal	Overall Demeanor
Dogs	Small: 100-160 Medium: 60-100 Puppy: 120-160	10-30	100.0-102.8	Pink/moist	<2s	Soft, non painful	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Cats	100-140	20-30	100.0-102.5	Pink/moist	<2s	Soft, non painful	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Rabbits	120-150	50-60	100.4-105	Pink/moist	<2s	Soft, non painful	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Chickens	140-250	15-30	105-109.4	Firm red comb	<2s	Soft fluctuant crop	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Horses	Adult: 28-44 Foal: 50-70	Adult: 8-15 Foal: 20-40	Adult: 99-101 Foal: 99-102	Pink/moist	<2s	Gut sounds in all four quadrants	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Goat	Adult: 70-110 Kid: 120-160	Adult: 15-40 Kid: 40-65	Adult: 101.5-103.5 Kid: 102-104	Pink/moist	<2s	Rumen contractions + soft rumen	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Sheep	Adult: 60-120 Lamb: 120-160	Adult: 12-72 Lamb: 30-70	Adult: 102-103.5 Lamb: 102.5-104	Pink/moist	<2s	Rumen contractions + soft rumen	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Llama/Alpaca	60-90	10-30	99-102	Pink/moist	<2s	3-4 rumen contractions/min	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Cattle	Adult: 40-80 Calf: 100-140	Adult: 12-36 Calf: 30-60	Adult: 100.5-102.5 Calf: 101.5-103	Pink/moist	<2s	Rumen contractions + soft rumen	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)
Pigs	70-120	30-50	101.5-103.5	Pink/moist	<2s	Soft, non painful	Bright, alert, responsive (BAR)

California Veterinary Emergency Team, University of California Davis
Vitals Chart
Last Updated September 2023

Pet ID & Reunific tion

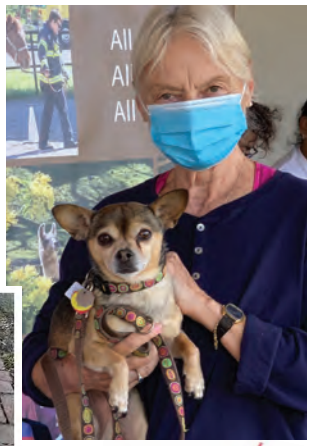
If you and your pet are separated, good ID, photos, and records will help you reconnect faster and more safely.

Microchipping is the BEST way to help you and your pets reconnect. Report your missing pet to local Animal Services and/or Helpline. Post missing pet info on agency, social media, and local neighborhood social media.

- ✔ Have multiple forms of identification -- and keep them all updated!
- ✔ Collar or harness with pet name and your contact info
- ✔ Microchip
- ✔ Vet records, registrations
- ✔ Personal & emergency contacts
- ✔ Photos of you with your pets
- ✔ Advance Medical Directive for your pets: What to do and approved expenses
- ✔ Post a sign on window with info about animals inside







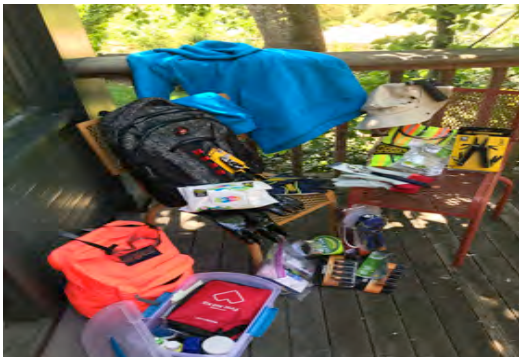


Pet Supplies, Go-Kits & Stay-Crates

Supplies and Ready-Kits should be easy to grab and go. Keep them where they are safe and accessible in an exteded emergency.

- ✔ Refresh food & medications regularly
- ✔ WATER, FOOD, MEDS:
  - * 5-7 Days if evacuating
  - * 30 Days, if possible, if sheltering in place
  - * Water purification products
- ✔ ***PET-SAFE* CLEANING PRODUCTS**
  - * Use unscented when possible.
  - * If using alcohol, bleach or hydrogen peroxide products, MUST allow to air-dry COMPLETELY before pet use.
  - * Put newspapers under pee pads for extra cushion and easier cleanup
- ✔ Pet carrier & folding wire cage
- ✔ Vet records, prescriptions and dosage
- ✔ First aid kit, grooming supplies, baby wipes
- ✔ Saline solution or wipes to clean eyes, face, mouth, paws, minor wounds
- ✔ Travel bowls, can opener, fork, plastic lid
- ✔ Cooling pads, ice packs
- ✔ Lightweight blanket, sheet or towel to give pets privacy, security, warmth in crates
- ✔ Kennel pads, poop bags, diapers
- ✔ Newspapers, disposable litter pans & litter
- ✔ Trash bags, rubber gloves, sanitizer
- ✔ Sheets & towels for pet privacy & bedding
- ✔ Calming aids, Thunder Shirts
- ✔ Large pillow case (Makes good temporary carrier for cats, birds, reptiles)
- ✔ Flashlight, charger, radio, batteries
- ✔ Your PPE, cash, glasses, meds





CAR, TRUCK, and Trailer READY-KITS

- ✓ Water (packs, jugs, Camelback)
- ✓ Purifier straw & tablets
- ✓ Buckets, hose, nozzle
- ✓ Tarps, foil blankets, ponchos
- ✓ Boots and socks
- ✓ Multi-season clothes, underwear
- ✓ Nitrile gloves
- ✓ Work gloves
- ✓ Potty bucket & liners
- ✓ Disinfectant & Chlorine Bleach
- ✓ Antibacterial soap, wipes, TP
- ✓ N-95 Masks & safety eye wear
- ✓ Food kit
- ✓ NOAA Radio
- ✓ Satellite phone/Beacon locator
- ✓ Buckets, spray bottles, sponge
- ✓ Vehicle Fire Extinguisher
- ✓ Hand held tire inflater
- ✓ Jumper cables or battery powered car charger
- ✓ Glass cleaning products, ice scrapper
- ✓ Safety vests
- ✓ Horse Trailer Safety Checklist
- ✓ Travel Safety for You & Your Horse
- ✓ Loaded gross weight verification
- ✓ Store all types of batteries safely in trailers and vehicles.
- ✓ Chargers - Use according to instructions: do not leave devices plugged in.
- ✓ First-aid kit
- ✓ Generator and fuel
- ✓ Chain & hand saws
- ✓ Shovel, metal rake, fire tool
- ✓ Bolt & wire cutters
- ✓ Reflective Duct Tape
- ✓ Safety Cones
- ✓ Wheel chocks, jack, crowbar
- ✓ Emergency blanket - mylar, heavy cotton, or wool
- ✓ Flares or electronic safety beacons NOTE: Do not use flares in fire weather, dry, windy conditions
- ✓ Headlamps, lanterns
- ✓ Flashlights & batteries
- ✓ Solar charger
- ✓ Small toolkit, knife, scissors

HALTER Project.org

Personal Ready-Kit Essentials






Chose Items That Multitask

Many of the items you include in your personal Ready-Kit and first aid kit can also be used for your animals. Be sure to add items specific to the needs of your animals to ensure their health and safe sanitation.

- Wear boots or sturdy shoes, long pants & layers
- Cell phone, cables, chargers
- Underwear, socks, light warm layer
- Waterproof document wallet with important info
- Thumb drive w/critical docs
- Water, snacks, electrolyte packets
- Meds, eye & lip care
- Glasses, extra contacts
- Spare keys
- Small first aid kit
- PPE-M95 and N100 masks
- Eye protection: sunglasses, goggles
- Work & nitrile gloves
- Notebook, pens, pencils, Sharpie
- Purifier tabs or LifeStraw
- Cash in small bills
- Whistle
- Flashlight, batteries
- Headlamp with red light
- Fanny pack/sling bag
- Emergency blankets
- Poncho, rain gear
- Multi-tool
- Glowsticks, LED beacon
- Hi-viz safety vest
- Can opener
- Trash bags

Communication

- Comms devices, radio/satellite phone, chargers, cables. Make sure you have correct charging, cables, adapters for your current devices. Ensure lithium ion batteries and chargers are properly stored.
- Hand crank or solar radio/charger/light
- Radio, GPS locator, saletlitte communication communicator

Personal Hygiene

- TP, sanitizer, antibacterial soap
- Hygine wipes: Try to use eco-friendly wipes when possible.
- Unscented baby wipes and body wipes are generally safe for use on pets as well as humans.
- Water wipes and saline wipes are good for eyes, ears, noses, and paws.
- Dry wipes are essential for removing ash from animal fur and hair. Paper towels, cheese cloth, dish towells work well and are easy to pack.

American Red Cross

21 Weeks to Prepare

Week 1

Tour your home to gather items you already have. Place all items in a waterproof bag or container before packing in the kit. Check off each item as you go.
_A sturdy, easy-to-carry container to hold items (backpack, duffle bag or large tote)
_A set of clothes and sturdy shoes for each family member
_Copies of important papers (birth certificates, ID, insurance policies, passports, home lease/deed, etc.)
_A 3-day supply of your medications
_A current list of family phone numbers and e-mails including someone who can be reached if local lines are down
_A map (mark an evacuation route on it from your local area)
_Extra cash in small bills
_Spare keys for house and car
_Spare glasses or contacts and solution
_Books or toys

Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
_1 gallon water _1 jar of peanut butter _1 box crackers _2 boxes of energy bars _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _2 cans of meat/fish _2 cans of fruit/veggies _manual can opener _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _1 bottle juice _1 pkg hand sanitizer _1 antibacterial soap _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _1 liquid dish soap _2 rolls toilet paper _1 box facial tissues _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _first aid kit & guide _latex gloves _tweezers _weather radio $1.75*
Week 7	**Week 8**	**Week 9**	**Week 10**	**Week 11**
_thermometer _allergy/pain reliever in a childproof container _Sunscreen _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _femenine supplies _comb and brush _1 potted meat _weather radio $1.75*	_towel & washcloths _toothbrush & paste _shampoo, bar soap _deodorant _weather radio $1.75*	_umbrella/slicker _scarf _winter gloves _1 bottle juice _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _1 pkg energy snacks _emergency blanket _matches _weather radio $1.75*
Week 12	**Week 13**	**Week 14**	**Week 15**	**Week 16**
_flashlight _batteries _cotton rope _1 bottle juice _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _screwdriver _utility knife _pliers _weather radio $1.75*	_2 can fruit/veggies _1 pkg eating utensils _1 pkg plastic cups _paper towels/napkins _weather radio $1.75*	_pet food & dishes _extra water _leash _litter pan/litter _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _2 can meat/fish _cell phone & charger _dried fruits & nuts _weather radio $1.75*
Week 17	**Week 18**	**Week 19**	**Week 20**	**Week 21**
_1 gallon water _extra flashlight _extra batteries for radio & flashlight _1 bottle juice _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _work gloves _dust masks _chlorine bleach _garbage bags & ties _weather radio $1.75*	_1 gallon water _plastic sheeting _plastic bucket & lid _disinfectant _notepad and pen _weather radio $1.75*	_2 boxes dry cereal _box graham crackers _whistle _duct tape _1 pkg energy snacks _weather radio $1.75*	_comfort foods _scissors _extra blankets _small pillows _water container _weather radio $1.75*

*Save $1.75 a week and purchase your weather radio at the end of 21 weeks

Customize your kit for your family
For baby: baby food, formula, bottles, diapers, extra water, for formula and washing bottles
For Seniors: oxygen, walker, adult diapers, a hearing aid with extra batteries and extra medications
For Pets: carrier, medicines, inoculation and health records, ID tags, photo of you with your pet(s)
For Children: toys, travel games, extra batteries, stuffed animal, cards, crayons, paper, books

Daylight Savings time: When you change your clocks, check your kit! Replace expired food, medicine, and batteries. Check clothing for fit and seasons. Also, change smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

For more preparedness tips, visit redcross.org.



Fire & Storm-Ready Checklists for Evacuation & Shelter-in-Place Prep

Your Animal Emergency Action Plan (EAP) should include a WEATHER ALERT ROUTINE. WEATHER and EVACUATION ALERTS mean action is needed.

Maintaining a moderate level of readiness year-round helps prevent a stressful and risky last-minute panic to prepare. Having a Weather Alert Routine and prep checklist that you review during “blue-sky” times, then practice when bad weather conditions are forecast, will reduce risks and keep everyone calmer and safer when you need to move quickly. You also need a Shelter-in-Place (SIP) plan for animals who cannot be moved, or circumstances when evacuation is not possible.

This guide includes recommendations and checklists for both Animal Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place planning and preparedness.

Weather Alerts vs Evacuation Alerts
What’s the Difference?

Weather Alerts are issued by the National Weather Service. They help Emergency Managers, firefighters, and us, plan and prepare for dangerous weather. Weather alerts provide forecasts for dangerous conditions such as storms, heat, cold, wind, flash flood, fire weather.

- **Weather watch:** Conditions are right for potentially hazardous weather—get ready!
- **Weather warning:** Dangerous conditions are likely to impact you soon—take immediate action!
- **Red Flag Warning:** Signals extreme fire danger.
- **Purple Flag:** Particularly dangerous fire conditions.

Evacuation Alerts are urgent notifications issued by local Emergency Services to alert residents in specific locations that they are in danger.

- Evacuation Alerts vary from region to region. Be familiar with the levels of evacuation in your region. Sign up for local Emergency alerts. If your region utilizes pre-identified Evacuation Zones and/or routes, know all those that are relevant to you, your family, and your animals.

Know When to PREP and When to Go

If you plan to evacuate with your animals, the time to get ready is when you are under a Weather WATCH.

The time to make final preparations for evacuating or sheltering in place is when a Weather WARNING is issued.

!! Don't wait to evacuate!!

READY, SET, GO!

WEATHER ALERT ACTION ITEMS

Get READY during calm weather times throughout the year. Make plans, stock supplies and ready kits, build a network of resources, update animal health records, insurance, important documents, reduce hazards around your home and property, work with your animals to improve herd and pack leadership skills, behavior, and trust.

On WEATHER WATCH Days

(Most items apply to storm and other sever weather alerts)

- Review your Evacuation and SIP plans
- Do a Hazard Hunt around your entire property: Home, decks, barn, feed storage, pastures, pens, coops (See Barn & Property Safety Checklist)

- Strengthen your property and vehicles
- Check infrastructure, supplies, equipment, tools,
- Inspect vehicles, fuel up or charge
- Practice with your animals, family, neighbors, buddy network helpers, staff, team members
- Run a loading practice
- Clean up, reduce ladder fuels
- Clear rig staging & turnarounds
- Check access for emergency vehicles
- Refresh or replace your high-visibility address signs and other signage
- Verify that Emergency Responders have access through your gate.
- Check loading area to make sure that rigs can enter, turn around, stage, load and leave as safely as possible to eliminate or minimize turning and backing.

Check condition and accessibility of tools and supplies.

- Water
- Accessible, recently inspected fire suppression equipment
- Power, generator, fuel
- Chain saw and other power tools and lube
- Work lights
- Ladders, shovels, rakes, extinguishers, hoses & nozzles

Family, Neighborhood, and Animals

- Refresh and increase supplies needed for the predicted conditions.
- Update family and emergency contacts.
- Do a test of your phone tree, group call or text numbers, or other communication plan.
- Keep devices charged. Check weather radios to make sure they're working, follow local emergency communications.

- Check medical and veterinary kits
- Make sure you have appropriate PPE for everyone
- Visible ID for all animals
- Animal equipment, halters, ropes
- Pet crates & supplies, leashes
- Ready kits
- Practice animal loading in crates, cars, trailers

WEATHER WARNING (Fire, wind, storm, etc.)

This is the time to be 100% ready to go or to leave with your animals, if possible. Although early evacuation may not always be possible, leaving when you receive a Weather Watch or Warning, is always safest and least stressful. Do not wait to evacuate.

WEATHER WARNING: GO or SIP?

Time to evaluate the risks and act accordingly

- Prepare for evacuation.
- Check with destination and transport resources
- Prep animals, carriers, crates
- Prep trailers, close windows, remove bedding
- Move animals to containment areas, confine pets, add visible ID
- Feed and exercise according to your plan
- Ready and stage vehicles for animal loading
- Load supplies, Go-Bags and documents
- Make final prep for animal SIP (See SIP Checklist)

Severe Weather Warning (Red Flag, Flash Flood, etc.) Evacuation WARNING

- Access to incoming traffic may be restricted.
- Evacuation levels can change quickly. You may not be allowed to return for a second or third trip.

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

Evacuation ORDER

- There will be no access for unauthorized vehicles into the evacuation zones.
- If you need assistance for animals inside an evacuated area notify Animal Services or Sheriff dispatch.
- Help Responders help your animals: Post a sign or packet of information about animals on site in a highly visible location from road.
- If Sheriff Evacuation Tags are utilized in your area, post one with your animal info.
- Notify animal services if there are animals and/or people sheltering in place.

Know When to Go, Evacuate, or Shelter-in-Place:
How to decide

Good evacuation and SIP decisions are based on risk assessment, conditions, and resources available.

EVACUATE NOW – If:

- You receive an Evacuation Alert, see smoke, or receive a flash flood warning.
- Property is:
  -- in a high-risk location for wildfire or flash flood.
  -- not defensible.
  -- has poor access, 1-way in/out, lacks on-site and nearby transport capacity for all animals.

- Lacks area for fast, safe loading and exit.
- Reduce animal population onsite to the number that can be transported by onsite vehicles and drivers.
- Evacuate all fragile animals first.
- Take steps to improve safety for animals who must shelter-in-place.
- Evacuate all remaining people and pets.
- Notify Animal Services or Sherriff of animals and humans on site.

GET READY for total or partial animal evac or SIP
Property and animals are at less risk if:

- Property is defensible and has good infrastructure and strong resources for emergency vehicles and Responders.
- Animal Services / Emergency Services are familiar with the site.
- Has transport capacity on-site and staged nearby for all animals.
- Evac routes are safe and defensible



Animal Emergency Planning
SHELTER-IN-PLACE PREP & WEATHER WATCH ROUTINE CHECKLISTS

Create a plan for Weather Watch and Weather Warning days and practice it when dangerous weather is predicted.

If your Disaster Plan includes sheltering animals in place, include a designated refuge area, complete all preparations BEFORE Severe Weather WARNING, such as Red Flag, Flash Flood, or Winter Storm.

Your Weather Watch Routine should reflect the types of weather hazard(s) relevant to your area. Depending on the location, you may need a plan for multiple hazards such as wildfire, flooding, severe storms. Most preparations apply to all circumstances. Understanding the local topography, weather patterns, and fire behavior help you make the strongest plans for animal safety.

REFUGE AREA PREP

- ☐ Start pre-hydrating area several days ahead of predicted Elevated Fire Danger weather forecasts.
- ☐ Inspect animal refuge area for hazard tree limbs, loose metal roofing, loose objects that can become water or wind-borne.
- ☐ Check fences.
- ☐ Store feed in secure fire and water-resistant containers 50’ (minimum) away from animals.
- ☐ Increase humidity in refuge area.
- ☐ Add water troughs, top off all.
- ☐ Secure troughs so they cannot tip over.
- ☐ Deactivate electric gates and fences.
- ☐ Leave gates closed and unlocked.

Get detailed home & property hardening guidance: Cal Fire, NFPA Firewise USA, Ready.gov

Local: Resource Conservation District, Fire Marshal, Fire Agency

EQUINE & LIVESTOCK PREP

- ☐ Remove halters, masks, wraps, sheets.
- ☐ Leave halters with ropes for every equine plus those needed for other species in fire and water-resistant container.
- ☐ Attach visible ID to animals (mane or tail tags, neckbands, crayon or paint)

- ☐ Braid or trim tails up to hock length.
- ☐ Check for loose shoes and trim fetlock feathers.
- ☐ Turn all animals out, but never loose in close proximity to roads.
- ☐ Close barn and shed doors to prevent animals from running back in.
- ☐ Notify Animal Services of animals sheltered on site.

RED FLAG, FIRE WEATHER or SEVERE STORM WARNING ACTION ITEMS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Keep pets confined in a secure place.
- ☐ Move animals out of, and away from, barns.
- ☐ Keep equines and livestock animals in catch-pens for quick capture and loading.
- ☐ Close doors and gates to prevent re-entry.
- ☐ Top off troughs.
- ☐ Increase humidity around barns.
- ☐ Clean up: Remove cobwebs, all flammable “stuff”—hay, bedding, woodpiles, trash receptacles, blankets, furniture, umbrellas, fabric awnings, cushions.
- ☐ Fuel up or charge vehicles, stage all haul rigs for easy loading and exit.
- ☐ Confirm destinations.
- ☐ Confirm haul teams are ready.
- ☐ Prep animals for hauling.
- ☐ Review and update your loading order.
- ☐ Move difficult and vulnerable animals first.

To make the strongest plan for your needs, get expert information and assistance relevant to your area. Many types of resources can help you.
Animal Specialists (State-National): USDA, CDFA-C.A.R.E.S., ASPCA, FEMA, CVET, Equine Guelph, Animal World Health, AVMA.
(County, Regional, State): Local Univ. Co-Op Ext. Service, CART & CERT orgs, Sheriff, Animal Care & Control, Horse Council, Farm Bureau, equestrian groups, Pet Rescue-Adoption orgs



NCAEP

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF EQUINE PRACTITIONERS

EMERGENCY KIT

- Stethoscope
- Digital thermometer
- Bandage scissors
- Headlamp
- Clean examination gloves
- Neosporin or topical antibiotic wound spray
- Banamine paste (consult your DVM)
- Triple Antibiotic Eye ointment (consult your DVM)
- Antibiotic soap or scrub (consult your DVM)
- Dexamethasone 10 mg packet or injection (consult your DVM)
- Sterile Telfa pad
- Cling gauze
- Vet wrap
- Roll cotton or pillow wrap
- Elastikon tape 4”
- Medium baby diapers (2)
- Duct Tape
- Bottle of sterile saline (wound irrigation)
- Bic Shaver
- Easy boot or Davis boot
- Box or bag to store contents
- Luggage tag with your ID/contact information
- Note Card inside with Expiration dates of meds
- Pet Identification sheet for each horse- with recent photo of equine, contact info, DVM info,
- Diet, Meds, Behavioral notes. Copies of those should also be hung in barn.
- Recent vaccination printout from your DVM
- Small notebook and pen
- Spare pair of readers (if applicable)

SECTION TWO - DOCS TO USE

This section contains documents to copy, fill out, and use.

- **Pet Evac Prep Checklist**
- **Barn & Property Safety Checklist**
- **Animal Emergency Plan**
- **Advance Directive**
- **Stall Card**
- **In Case of Emergency sign**
- **Pets Inside Sign**
- **Fire Weather Barn Routine**
- **Animal Emergency Contacts**

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Pet Evac Prep Checklist

When to PREP and When to GO



The time to PREP for possible evacuation or sheltering-in-place is when there's a Weather Watch or Warning.

These are the times to practice your plan with pets, family, neighbors, and your pet buddy network of helpers and destinations.



BONUS: If you're prepared for a natural disaster, you'll be ready in case of personal emergencies, too!



PREP for PETS & PEOPLE

- ☑ **Check all Go-Bags, Refresh if needed.**
- ☑ **Pack enough for 5-7 days, minimum.**
- ☑ **Practice with pets.**
- ☑ **Cash, eyeglasses, meds, chargers.**
- ☑ **Put all important personal & pet docs with Go-Bags.**
- ☑ **Put bags where you can pick them up quickly.**
- ☑ **Fuel your car.**

PREP for PETS

- ☑ **ID tags on all pets.**
- ☑ **Check in with your pet buddy network.**
- ☑ **Practice using harness, loading carrier, securing in car.**
- ☑ **Practice with others.**

On RED FLAG or FLOOD WARNING DAYS

This is the time to review your plan, confirm your destination, and GO, or be 100% READY to GO.

- ☑ **Keep your phone charged & on.**
- ☑ **Listen to radio & TV weather forecasts.**
- ☑ **Load Go-Bags into car.**
- ☑ **Keep meds, etc. cool and ready to go.**
- ☑ **Confine pets in a safe, secure place.**
- ☑ **Don't leave dogs tied outside.**
- ☑ **Leave extra water for outside cats.**
- ☑ **Confirm neighbor or Evac Buddy is ready to get your pet, if needed.**
- ☑ **Confirm that you have a place to go with your pets.**
- ☑ **Confirm that you have helpers and transportation.**
- ☑ **Check manual garage opener or park outside facing exit route.**
- ☑ **Plan to leave during daylight, if possible.**

WHERE TO ASK for EXPERT RISK ASSESSMENT ADVICE

- Consultants for Wildfire Risk Assessment, Specialty Construction Contractors, local FireSAFE Council.
- Flood risk management Consultants, Geo-Techinical/Levee or Flood Control Consultants, local Resource Conservation District (RCD), local Fire Department.

Barn and Property Safety Checklist

Item	OK	To Do	Shopping List
Around the Property			
Check perimeter fencing and gates. Do boards or wires need replacing? Gates drag on ground?			
Do you need to remove fallen branches, stubs or debris? Look for broken branches on trees or shrubs that are low enough that a horse may be injured running into them.			
Check for poisonous plants.			
Check for gates blocked by overgrown bushes or grass.			
Is your address clearly visible on the street for easy access by emergency services?			
Check jumps, barrels and other equipment. Check for broken or loose items that can become wind-borne hazards.			
Check for damaged water troughs & feeders. Are they stable?			
Check drainage pipes for sharp edges.			
Check run-in sheds condition. Look for nails, sharp objects. Erosion may cause gaps to form where a horse could catch a leg or hoof.			

Around the Barn			
Make sure debris, combustible material and weeds are cleared a minimum 30’ from structures for fire protection.			
Check barn structures for damage to posts, beams, walls, roof. Loose roofing is a wind & fire hazard.			
Do outside electrical outlets and switches have waterproof covers?			
Wash areas should be clear of clutter. Shelves should be positioned so horses won’t bump into them.			
Are fire extinguishers in all buildings and in good working order? In large facilities, place fire extinguishers every 40’. (Check local codes.)			
Inspect all wiring for damage from weather or rodents.			
Check all electrical cords. Appliances and equipment should be unplugged when not in use.			
Are there cobwebs and dust accumulating behind refrigerators or other appliances? Around lights or electrical sources? If so, clean the area(s).			
Grain and supplements should be stored in metal cans and lids secured with bungee cord to prevent rodent infestation. This will also curtail loose horses from gorging on grain.			

Hay and shavings should be stored in a separate building, if possible. Storing hay in a well-ventilated loft is preferable to the floor. If you store hay on the floor, place it on pallets or skids as far from stalls as possible. Keep the area clean.			
Are barn aisles clear of clutter and trip hazards? Any items stored in the aisles should be placed on hooks high enough that a panicked horse will not injure himself. Tack boxes and other items on the floor should not prevent doors from opening fully.			
Check stalls for damage to wood surfaces, broken or cracked feeders, protruding nails, leaky automatic waterers. Look around the floors for loose or damaged mats and other hazards that might hurt when a horse rolls.			
Check latches and door knobs. Are they in good working condition? Do they pose a hazard? Will tack or horses get caught on them?			
Check floors for standing water, slick surfaces and uneven areas.			
Look for, and destroy, wasp nests.			
Safely dispose of expired medications. When in doubt of how, ask your vet.			
Are emergency numbers and information posted in highly visible areas? Is the information up to date?			

Do you have battery operated emergency lights?			
Do you have “No Smoking” and “Exit” signs posted?			
Earthquake Safety			
Are shelving and other storage, furniture, and cabinets secured so that they cannot fall over?			
Do cabinet doors have earthquake latches or strong magnets?			
Are fans firmly attached so they can’t shake loose?			
Check hanging hardware on stall and barn entry doors. Damaged or poorly adjusted hardware can prevent access after an earthquake.			
Wildfire Safety			
Are stall & barn door latches highly visible to responders in a dark or smoke-filled barn? Galvanized metal or painted in light color?			
Do you have “fire-wise” screens to prevent embers from entering vents and rain gutters?			
Are hoses and nozzles in good condition and long enough to reach all areas of the barn inside and out?			
Does your barn have smoke detectors?			
Do you have a Weather Watch checklist and routine posted in visible areas? Do you practice it frequently?			

ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLAN

For Owners, Caregivers, and Animal Sitters

Attach current vaccination & vet records to this plan.

* Keep a copy with your important records.
* Put a copy where helpers and responders can see it.
* Give copies to animal caregivers.
* Keep a copy electronically.

Pet's Name: _____

Pet's Description: _____

Medical Information

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Pet Allergies: _____

Special Diet Needs: _____

Medication: _____ Dose: _____

Medication: _____ Dose: _____

Attach copies of pet's vaccination records and a photo of your pet to this plan

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

EMERGENCY SHELTERING INFORMATION

For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Identify 2 hotels/motels that accept pets in your area for short-term emergencies and 2 long-term pet boarding options. Long-term options could include boarding kennels, veterinarians, and animal shelters.

Hotels/Motels:

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Boarding Options:

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Rate: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Update your Animal Disaster Plan, Ready Kit, and emergency supplies twice a year.

Advance Health and Final Care or Pets

In the event of my death, or incapacity to act,
I want the following plan for the care and safety
of my pet(s) to be implemented.

HALTER Project
www.HALTERproject.org

Pet's Name	Species	Age	Gender

I would like my pet(s) to be:

☐ Placed in an appropriate home by this rescue organization:

_____

o A copy of this document is on file with this organization.

☐ Surrendered to the SPCA, local humane society, or pet rescue organization

o A copy of this document is on file with this organization.

☐ Euthanized, cremated, buried/remains disposed of with me, as mine.

☐ Placed with family or friends, as listed below.

o Each person named has a copy of this document.

Name	Address	Phone	Relationship

Veterinarian Information

Name _____ Phone_____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip_____

o A copy of this document, and my pet(s) records are on file with my veterinarian.

Pet Owner Signature_____ Date_____

Witness_____ Date _____

ANIMAL NAME _____

SPECIES: _____ **BREED:** _____ **AGE** _____

COLOR: _____ **STALL/PEN #**_____

SEX: Mare Gelding Stallion

OWNER NAME _____

PHONE 1 _____ **PHONE 2** _____

EMERG. CONTACT NAME _____

PHONE _____

VET _____ **PHONE** _____

_____

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

MICROCHIP NUMBER _____

BRAND / TATTOO Circle Location: Neck Hip Lip Other

MARKINGS (Blaze, Sock, etc.) _____

PHOTO

FEED

HAY A.M. NOON. P.M.

GRAIN A.M. NOON. P.M.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS _____

_____

NOTES

NEEDS MEDICATION _____

BLIND: Left Right Both LAME: (Describe) _____

WARNINGS: Kicks Bites Head/Ear Shy Doesn't Load

Other _____

Needs to be with others or has a buddy _____

PHOTO

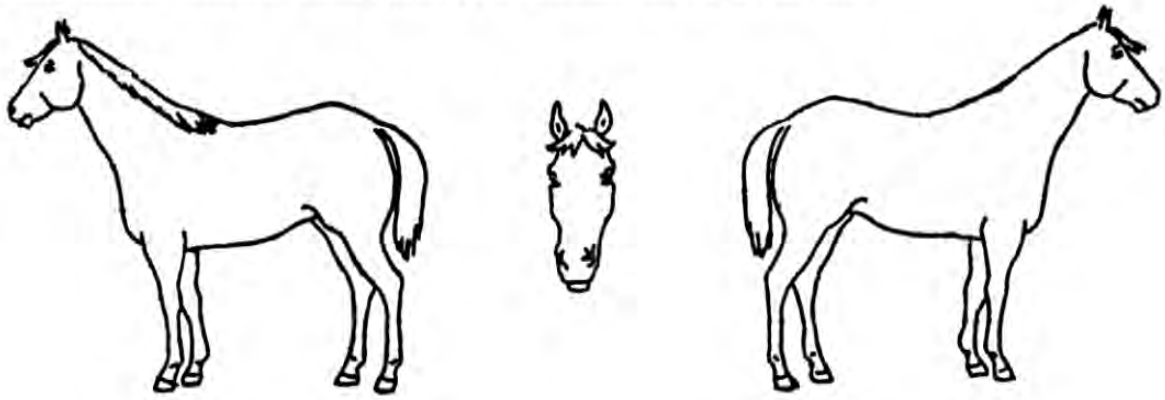
ANIMAL INSURANCE INFO – Policy Number

_____

OWNER'S VEHICLE(S) LICENSE PLATE(S)

_____

Sketch markings and indicate colors or attach photographs showing both sides and face.



SAFETY				
	TRAILERS THIS HORSE WILL GET IN:	STEP-UP: Y / N / ?	STRAIGHT LOAD: Y/N / ?	
		RAMP: Y / N / ?	STOCK TRAILER: Y/N / ?	
	VICES:			
	IS YOUR HORSE?	SAFE TO TIE? Y / N	GOOD W/OTHER HORSES? Y/N	
		SAFE IN PASTURE? Y / N	SAFE IN PADDOCK? Y / N	REQUIRE STALL? Y / N
PREFERRED EVACUATION SITE:				

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

ANIMALS MAY BE INSIDE THE HOUSE, BARN, OR COOP

ANIMAL CONTROL
Phone #:_____
_____

HALTER Project
LEADING RESIDENTS TO SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS
HALTERproject.org



 # _____ of DOGS

Names: _____

_____

 # _____of CATS



Names: _____

_____

BARN/OUTSIDE -- CATS, DOGS



# of Cats _____

# of Dogs_____

# of Other_____

LIVESTOCK / POULTRY -- SPECIES & LOCATIONS



_____

_____



OWNER: _____ **CELL:** _____

ADDRESS_____

_____

EMERG. CONTACT: _____ **CELL:** _____

PET(S) INSIDE

DO NOT

OPEN DOOR

PET(S) NAME(S) & INFO:



FIRE WEATHER BARN ROUTINE

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

Wildfire-Ready Barn

Visit Cal Fire's "Ready, Set, Go!" web site 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 alert is issued.

This checklist is focused on your equine, large animal and pet 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 & 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 for a quick exit, and turn around without having to back up.
- ☑ 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 on HALTERproject.com

SHELTER-in-PLACE CHECKLIST

- ☑ Have animal refuge areas perpared in advance.
- ☑ Leave extra halters & ropes stored in fire-resistant containers for every equine.
- ☑ Store feed in secure fire-resistant container 50' (min.) away from animals.
- ☑ Remove halters, masks, wraps, sheets. Check for loose shoes.
- ☑ Braid or trim tails up to hock length. Trim fletlock feathers.
- ☑ Increase humidity in refuge area.
- ☑ Add water troughs. Top them all off.
- ☑ Secure troughs so they cannot tip over.
- ☑ Leave gates closed and unlocked.
- ☑ Turn all animals out, but not loose in close proximity to roads.
- ☑ Close barn & shed doors.
- ☑ Deactivate electric gates & fences.
- ☑ Notify Animal Services of animals on site.

Post in a highly visible location
or keep in your Emergency Binder.

Animal Emergency Contacts

- **Animal Emergency Shelter locations and other information will be provided in Emergency Services alerts and official Agency posts.**
- **2-1-1 may have Shelter and other resource information, and Call Takers who can translate in your language.**

My Animal "Buddy" Contacts _____

_____

_____

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Use information provided in Emergency Alerts

ANIMAL CONTROL_____

_____

CART / ANIMAL EVAC TEAM _____

_____

_____

EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTER _____

_____

Animal Services can help animals sheltered in place. However, Owner/Caregiver must call to request assistance.