

Disaster Planning for Horse Owners

Ready Your Horses

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

Prevent On-Site Fires

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

Test Your Trailer

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

Locate a Temporary Caregiver

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

Plan Your Evacuation Route

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



Collaborate with Neighbors

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

Create an Emergency Kit

Make a portable emergency kit that includes the following:

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