

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PET PREPAREDNESS

HORSES AND LARGE ANIMALS

Emergency preparedness is important for all animals, but preparedness for horses and large animals is especially important because of their size and special transportation needs.

Horses

- Horses should be evacuated as soon as an Evacuation Warning is issued. Do not wait for the EVACUATION ORDER.
- If you are unprepared or wait until the last minute, you may need to leave your animals behind which is not recommended to do.

The following are some tips when considering your evacuation plan:

- Before the emergency and/or disaster, make arrangements to shelter your animals at two different locations far apart from each other.
- If you have large animals, evacuate when you hear the EVACUATION WARNING.
- Train horses to lead and trailer so that they become comfortable with the process.
- Keep your truck and trailer in a safe, working condition (gas tank full). If you do not have a truck and trailer, make arrangements in advance to have someone evacuate your animals.
- Know who is evacuating your animals. Be sure to exchange contact information (i.e. telephone/cellular numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.), California Drivers License numbers and other relevant information with the person who is evacuating your horse(s). Know where your animals will be taken to.
- Network with your neighbors prior to an emergency and/or disaster. Work together to help horse/pet owners on your street who do not have horse trailers or who are not home during an emergency and/or disaster.

Large Animal Shelter-in-Place

Shelter-in-Place means providing optimum shelter on your property for your horses/livestock if you cannot evacuate. It is advised, not to shelter-in-place for large animals.

If you must shelter-in-place:

- Do not turn horses loose – they may return home to a burning barn. Loose horses also cause serious problems for first responders.
- Maintain adequate clearance – the Los Angeles County Fire Department recommendation is 200 ft. clearance around your property.
- Turn horses into arena with sufficient brush and tree clearance – Your horse corral should be made with metal pipes, not PVC or wood.

Also, consider having the following items near the horse corral:

- Fire hose(s)
- Generator
- Multiple shovels placed strategically around property, axe, hoe, rake, broom, etc.
- Multiple ladders extended and placed at both ends of house and ready for use near the barn.
- Portable AM/FM radio with spare batteries.
- Hand held FRS radios (walkie talkies) and hand held scanner with spare batteries.
- Masks, goggles, heavy working gloves and bandanas
- Use leather halters not nylon.

NOTE: Post important addresses and telephone numbers by your telephone in the house and in the horse barn.

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