

Disaster Planning Checklist for Horse Farms



Each farm should have a written disaster plan to optimize safety and survival of all animals and humans. This checklist will help you determine what plans you can make now to help mitigate the damage your property may be vulnerable to.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNALS

- Gather information on the type of disasters or hazards most likely to occur in your area (flood plain, wildfire, storm surge area, etc.).
- Assess the condition of your structures (how many glass windows and doors, roof condition, exposed or old wiring, presence of interior “safe areas,” clear areas around structure, etc.)

MAP IT OUT

- Identify vital/irreplaceable property and how to protect it.
- Determine evacuation routes or safe areas to shelter in place for humans and animals.
- Identify hazardous and explosive materials (fuels, medicines, pesticides, etc.) and store where they are less likely to impact nearby structures.

MAKE AN INVENTORY LIST

- List all your farm inventory including livestock (species, number of animals); crops (acres, type); machinery and equipment (make, model).

SECURE THE PREMISES

- Protect identification and vital documents.
- Install fire alarms and lightning suppression system.
- Make sure adequate hoses are attached to the building.
- Check electric wiring and be prepared for loss of power (have generators available).
- Protect vital refrigerated inventory.
- Unplug equipment, shut off breakers, gas and water.
- Secure glass and all movable objects.
- Place large vehicles in open areas where trees can't fall on them.

STOCKPILE SUPPLIES

- Wire and rope to secure objects.
- Tarps and/or plastic.
- Flashlights and batteries.
- Extra fuel.
- Fire extinguishers in all buildings and vehicles.
- Non-perishable food/water.

- Emergency first aid kits for both humans and animals.
- Tools (chainsaw, hammer, nails, wire cutters, pry bar, duct tape, pocket knife, etc.)
- Chlorine bleach to add to contaminated water if necessary.
- Blankets/warm clothes.
- Sanitary products.

HORSE SPECIFIC PREPARATIONS

- Make sure all horses are up to date on their vaccinations and had a tetanus toxoid vaccine within the last year.
- Current negative Coggins test and health certificate on file for all animals (these documents are required if the horses need to be evacuated across the state line).
- Identification (each horse should be identified with microchip or information secured to the halter with duct tape).
- Do not turn out horses in barbed wire or electric fencing during a storm.
- Keep horses out of pastures with power lines.
- Carefully inspect pastures for hazards.
- Store food and water (each horse should have 12 to 20 gallons of water per day stored — line garbage cans with plastic liners and fill as water troughs; store a minimum of 72 hours worth of feed and hay — cover hay with waterproof tarp and place on pallets; keep grain in water tight containers).
- Store extra halters and lead ropes.

SHARE YOUR PLAN

- Keep family members and farm employees informed of the farm's emergency plan and each person's role.
- Establish phone tree and list of emergency contacts.
- Invite fire chiefs and first responders to your farm and ask them to review your emergency plan.

CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE

- Review your insurance coverage and update if necessary.