



AAEP American Association
of Equine Practitioners

Horse Health Education

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Being Prepared During Times of Disaster: Important Tips for Horse Owners

myHorseMatters.com



HORSE HEALTH EDUCATION: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a disaster, your veterinarian knows how important it is for you as a horse owner to have pre-planned actions and proper information to make rapid decisions that may save your horse's and even your own life.



myHorseMatters.com



ASSESS YOUR RISKS

What are the most likely disasters in your area?
(flood, fire, tornado, hurricane, nuclear accident,
disease threat, chemical spill, ice storm, etc.)



ASSESS YOUR RISKS

For each type disaster, make a checklist:

- What are your major vulnerabilities?
- What can you do to minimize damage?
- What plans do you have in place?
- Who do you need to contact?



BEFORE THE EVENT



- Take a careful look at your property and identify the best place for your animals in each type of disaster you consider.



BEFORE THE EVENT



- Prepare for the possibility you might have to evacuate.
 - Check with your local veterinarian, law enforcement, animal control or agriculture extension office for routes and recommendations for evacuations.



BEFORE THE EVENT

- Find several alternative locations and check the entry requirements of each. Be sure to have agreements arranged for your animals in advance.
- Prepare an ID packet for each horse including age, sex, breed, color, registrations, unique ID's, photos, microchip numbers, etc.

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT



- Write down any special feeding instructions, list any medications with dosage, record the name and phone number of your prescribing veterinarian.
- Be sure all vaccination and medical records are in writing and up to date. Have a current Coggins test record. Consult your veterinarian for other recommended immunizations or tests.

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT

- Take records with you. Records left at home may be damaged or destroyed during a disaster.
- Check for alternate water sources. Have fresh water (10-20 gallons per horse per day) and hay available for 48-72 hours.
- Keep trailers and vans well maintained and full of fuel.

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT



- Keep insurance coverage current and adequate.
- Consider an event where you might be unable to save/evacuate all of your animals. Make a priority list. Familiarize family and farm personnel with the list in case you are not there when a disaster occurs.

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT

Prepare an emergency kit for a minimum of 72-hour care:

- Plastic trash barrel with lid
- Tarpaulins
- Water buckets

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT



- First aid items:
 - Betadine or Nolvasan solution
 - Antibiotic ointment
 - Gauze squares and bandages
 - Ichthammol ointment (feet)
 - Eye ointment

Consult your veterinarian for any additional first aid items he/she may feel are appropriate.

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT

- Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Fire-resistant, non-nylon leads and halters
- Knife, scissors, wire cutters
- Duct tape

myHorseMatters.com



BEFORE THE EVENT



- Livestock markers or paint
- Leg wraps
- Lime and bleach/disinfectant

myHorseMatters.com



DEVELOP A BUDDY SYSTEM

Talk with a neighbor or friend and make arrangements to check on each other after a disaster.

Tell one another if you are evacuating and to where, so authorities will know.

Buddies may agree to pool resources such as generators, water tanks, trailers, etc.

myHorseMatters.com



DEVELOP A BUDDY SYSTEM



Permanently identify each horse by tattoo, microchip, brand, tag, photographs (front, rear, left and right side) and/or drawing.

If disaster strikes before you can do this, paint or etch hooves, use neck or pastern bands or paint your telephone number or last four digits of your SSN on the side of the animal.

myHorseMatters.com



PRACTICE YOUR PLAN



When disaster strikes remain calm and follow your plan!

Remember it is vital to be able to leave early in any mandatory evacuation to avoid getting stalled in traffic and create any unnecessary hardships.

myHorseMatters.com



AFTER AN EVENT



- Notify family, friends and officials that you are alright, whether you are staying or evacuating. Use phones, radios, Internet, signs or word of mouth.
- Inspect your premises carefully before turning out horses. Look for foreign materials (tin, nails, glass, etc.) and downed fences or power lines.

myHorseMatters.com



AFTER AN EVENT



- Be careful leaving your animals unattended outside. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered, and your horses could easily become confused and lost.
- Check with your veterinarian or State Veterinarian's Office for information of any disease threats that may exist because of the situation.

myHorseMatters.com



AFTER AN EVENT

- If you find other horses, use extreme caution in handling, and work in pairs if possible. Keep the horse(s) contained and isolated, and notify authorities as soon as possible.



myHorseMatters.com



AFTER AN EVENT



- If any horses are lost, contact local authorities. BE PREPARED TO IDENTIFY AND DOCUMENT OWNERSHIP WHEN CLAIMING LOST HORSES.
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for information about locating lost animals.

myHorseMatters.com



Photos courtesy of:

Dana Zimmel, DVM, DACVIM, DABVP
Gainesville, Florida



myHorseMatters.com



HORSE HEALTH EDUCATION: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The AAEP would like to thank our Educational Partners for their support of the AAEP's Owner Education Programs



Bayer



Boehringer
Ingelheim



Animal Health



Purina Mills, LLC



EXPECT MORE™



WORLD EQUINE LEADERS



Nutrena™

PLATINUM VET



EQUUS

myHorseMatters.com



For more horse health information,
visit our Web site:

myHorseMatters.com