

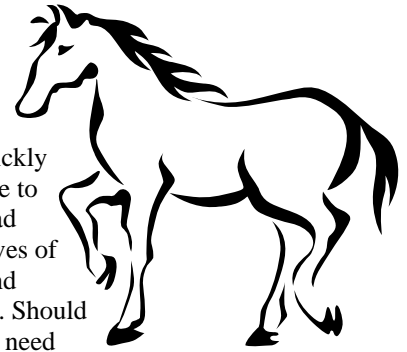
Preparing Horses & Livestock for Disasters

Based on information from the Intermountain Humane Society website www.imhs.org and Emergency Animal Rescue at www.emergencyanimalrescue.org

Animal lives are necessarily going to take second priority to human lives in an emergency situation, so the better prepared you've prepared for them, the more likely your animals will survive along with you.

- Once disaster strikes, you will probably not be able to enter or re-enter the area personally to evacuate your pets and livestock. Neighbors and emergency crews may be the only ones who can evacuate your animals. Help draft neighborhood plans to help ensure the safe evacuation of each other's pets and livestock during a crisis.
- Post evacuation information clearly at your home concerning your animals, including the numbers of pets in the household, the location of evacuation supplies, and signed permission for emergency crews to enter the premises to remove animals, local contact numbers and a contact that lives out of the area. Place this information in a durable sheet protector or real estate information box and place it where emergency crews or neighbors will see.
- Keep your pets' vaccinations current and keep copies of vaccination records available, in case you need to board your pets or leave the area with your animals.
- Provide identification for horses and individual livestock. Keep halters available with nametags attached to them or a telephone number marked on them. In emergency evacuation situations you can also use marked duct-tape collars and spray paint on the sides of horses to provide identification. Consider placement of permanent tattoos, freeze marks, or microchips for animals to maximize their identification potential.
- Store photographs of horses and other individual livestock at a location away from your home. Keep duplicates of ownership, registration and brand inspection papers in a safe place away from your home. Horses at evacuation centers cannot legally be there without legal proof of ownership.
- Compile a list of animal shelters and boarding kennels in your region where you might be able to seek emergency housing for animals in an emergency.
- If at all possible, have adequate trailer space for transporting all of your livestock. Make sure that all of your horses will easily load into

trailers. If necessary, seek professional help in teaching horses to load quickly and safely. Failure to train horses to load easily risks the lives of horses, owners and emergency crews. Should emergency crews need to use your trailer to move your animals, it is essential that a hitch ball be clearly available that fits that trailer.



- Have portable carriers available for cats, small dogs and other small pets. Have leashes for larger dogs. Place luggage tags on carriers or use markers to mark them with your name and phone number. This is especially critical for people with birds and exotic pets that may need special environmental conditions. These pets may also need to have special cages for transportation (with covers) and you may want to have hot-water bottles available to prevent chilling during cooler weather.
- If you are at home when a disaster strikes, you should be prepared to take all your animals with you when you leave. Leaving animals not only endangers animals, but it causes people to try to return to their homes, risking their lives and the lives of emergency personnel. Make prior arrangements with family or friends out of your area where you can house your pets and livestock in the event of an emergency.
- If you evacuate your own animals, be sure to bring a pet first-aid kit, including any prescription medications.
- In addition, if there is adequate time, bring food, water, veterinary records, dishes, a can opener, blankets, leashes, paper towels, toys and grooming utensils. Place emergency equipment in a convenient location and/or make a list of needed items. Keep important personal and financial materials together for quick removal as well