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 Nolvassan® (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

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