

# PLANNING BEFORE AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION



- SAFE SPACES:** Plan several locations around your area where you could take your horses in an emergency (e.g. Fires and floods can close off certain locations you had counted on)
- TRAILERING:** Arrange for a couple of different folks with trailers to be available.
- FACILITIES:**
  - Ensure locks on barn doors are operational and easily opened.
  - Ensure easy access for trailers and trucks.
  - Have your address written with reflective numbers and easily visible from the road in case others need to find your barn quickly.
  - Keep 72 hours of water and food ready at all times for the evacuation AND for your return home. - power may be off for several days after you return.
  
- PAPERWORK:** (Have ready in a watertight envelope – ready to go)
  - Photographs of your horses and records of any tattoos, microchips, or brands. In your records, include the horse's age, sex, breed and color. Taking a picture of your horse with you or a family member can help to prove ownership.
  - Place your horses' current Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, and vital information—such as medical history, allergies and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.) in a safe place with quick access.
  
- EVACUATION SUPPLIES**
  - Halters:** Keep breakaway halters and lead ropes ready for *each* horse.
  - Tags** – Have a tag on halter and/or leg band with the the horse's name, your name, email address, your telephone number and another emergency telephone number where someone can be reached. (using a sharpie on a hoof or paint on side of horse can work in a pinch)
  - First Aid Kit** – Have a portable first aid kit prepared in watertight container.
  - Food** – have 72 hours of food and water prepared in a mobile format (horses need 12-20 gallons of water per day) In watertight containers if possible.
  - Kit for Evacuation Site** – Buckets for feed/water, Flashlights, Cellphone charger, Leg wraps, Hoof pick, Tarp, Knife/Leatherman, shovel, Water hose, Duct tape, Wire Cutters.
  - Medicines** – Have a 72 hour supply of necessary medicines labeled and in a watertight container ready to go.
  
- TRAINING:**
  - Teach your horse how to load onto a trailer (if your horse is not easily able to load onto a trailer you need to make a plan of how they can safely remain in place)
  - Practice leading your horse when there is a commotion happening. Perhaps on a windy day or with a friend shaking flags or banging on buckets.
  
- STAYING HOME:** There are times when you will need to evacuate without your horses. Have a plan of how you will supply them with at Least 72 hours of food and water without human assistance.

## References: