

Disaster Preparedness

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

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Disaster Preparedness



Disaster:

An incident that is beyond the scope where an individual, local and community resources can deal with an event as an emergency.



Disaster Preparedness

- Assess Your Risk

What are the most likely disasters in our area?

- Flash Flood
- Tornado
- Blizzard
- Wildfire
- Drought



Wildfire in Bitterroot National Forest - Montana USA



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Examples:

- Spring Creek Flood 1997
- Hayman fire 2002
- Picnic Rock Fire 2004
- Blizzards of 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007
- Tornado 2008
- Olde Stage Road Fire 2009
- In the Future?



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Before the Event

- Look at your location
- Plan an escape route
- “Tornado Box” = horse box
- Identify facilities and resources
- Identify friends and family



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Before the Event

- Have access to a functional/safe horse/stock trailer
- Have a full tank of gas
- Practice loading
- Identification tags/
livestock marker
- Prioritize evacuation



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Before the Event

- Monitor Television / radio stations
- Cash
- Hay supply
- Clean up kit
- Practice your plan



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During the disaster

- Evacuate early
- Develop a Buddy System
- Remain Calm
- Follow your Plan



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Flash Floods

Caused by:

- **Excessive Precipitation**
- **Steep Gradient**
- **Drought Conditions**
- **Post Wildfire**

What to Do?

- **Time Frame= fast moving**
- **Horses will move away**



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Tornadoes

Caused by:

- **Warm air colliding with cold air.**

What to do?

- **Little to no warning**
- **Human vs. horse**
- **Open escape routes**



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Blizzards

Caused by:

- **Heavy snow fall with strong winds**

What to do?

- **Warning time varies**
- **Horses will seek out shelter**
- **“Drift Over”**
- **More resistant to move**



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Wildfires

Caused by:

- **Drought conditions**
- **Lightening strikes**
- **Carelessness**

What to do?

- **Warning times will vary**
- **Evacuate early**
- **Mark and set free**



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Difficulties You May Encounter

- **Animal reactions under stress**
- **Access and transportation difficulties**
- **Equipment and facility design risks**
- **Losing focus on the disaster**



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The Aftermath

- **Inspect your premises**
- **Clean up debris**
- **Identify and take possession of your horses**
- **Be careful leaving horses outside**



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The Aftermath

- **Check with your veterinarian of potential disease risks**
- **Reunite family groups**
- **Treat wounds and injuries**



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Summary

- Prepare a Plan
- Practice the Plan
- Stay safe and calm



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Resources

- Equine Medical Services-
<http://www.emsvet.com>
- AAEP –
http://www.aaep.org/emergency_prep.htm#own
- Colorado State University Cooperative Extension-
http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/pubs.html#ag_livestock

