

DISASTER PLANNING FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS

RANCH / FARM DISASTER CHECKLIST

- ◇ Current list and photos of all animals, including their location and records of feeding, vaccinations, and tests. Make this information available at various locations on the farm. Make sure that you have proof of ownership for all animals.
- ◇ Supplies for temporary identification of your animals, such as plastic neckbands and permanent markers to label your animals with your name, and emergency contact telephone numbers.
- ◇ Basic first aid kits, human and animal.
- ◇ Handling equipment such as halters, leads and cages appropriate for each kind of animal.
- ◇ Minimum five day supply of water and feed. Buckets, and tools and supplies needed for sanitation.
- ◇ Disaster equipment such as a cell phone, flashlights, portable radios, and batteries.
- ◇ Safety and emergency items for your vehicles and trailers including fuel.
- ◇ Food, water, and disaster supplies for your family and house pets.
- ◇ Family and Ranch Disaster Plan



Want to Help? Join EVRT

After the devastating "Wheeler" Fire of 1985, the Ventura County Department of Animal Regulation (VCAR) brought together a number of horse owners, enthusiasts and experts to form a volunteer large animal rescue group subsequently known as Emergency Volunteer Rescue Team (EVRT).

EVRT members assist VCAR during times of disasters such as wildland fires, flooding, earthquakes, or any emergency incident requiring the evacuation of livestock. Volunteers, using their own vehicles and equipment, may be sent into disaster areas to capture and transport animals to safety, assess the needs and requirements for emergency evacuation, assist VCAR personnel in the transportation, housing, care and maintenance of temporarily displaced animals, or perform a number of clerical, dispatch, organizational or training functions in conjunction with EVRT operations.

During a State of Emergency or Local Emergency, EVRT members are considered to be Registered Animal Rescue, Care and Shelter Disaster Service Workers (DSW). As registered DSW's, EVRT members are provided worker's compensation coverage and limited liability protection during disaster events and when attending EVRT training, practice and planning sessions. In order to qualify for DSW status, EVRT members must, beside registering with the VCAR, be registered with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). Volunteers will be required to take a loyalty oath, complete a detailed registration form and be subject to a background investigation. Upon completion of all requirements, the OES will issue picture identification to EVRT Disaster Service Workers that will allow members access to closed and restricted disaster areas.

EVRT volunteers are issued vehicle placards, yellow EVRT vests, and all necessary forms, inventories, logs and paperwork needed to fulfill their responsibilities. Periodic training sessions and meetings are held to keep EVRT volunteers up to date.

For additional information visit us on the web at www.vcar.us and click on the disaster links at the left of the home page. For EVRT information and applications call Officer Denise Callaway at 805-388-4341 ext. 8881



Ventura County

Animal Regulation Department

805-388-4341

1-888-223-PETS (7387)

Website: www.vcar.us

DISASTER PHONE: 1-866-EVRT911

1-866-387-8911

activated only during emergencies



WILL YOU BE READY?

PLAN AHEAD

Familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that can occur in your area and develop a plan of action for each type. Disasters to consider in Ventura County are wildland fire, earthquake, flooding, dam breakage, tsunami, hazardous material spill, landslides, and the ever-present threat of a terrorist caused nuclear event.

Define the best location on your property on which to confine your animals in each type of event.

If you determine that in some or all events your animals will need to be evacuated, identify a number of locations the animals could be taken to such as relatives or friends homes, stables etc. and discuss your options with these people ahead of time. If you are considering moving your horses to another equine facility, find out what the entry requirements are and make arrangements in advance. Be sure to contact the owner/operator prior to moving your animals there as they may be facing similar evacuation orders themselves.

Inform family, friends, and neighbors of your evacuation plans. Post detailed instructions in several places including your barn office, tack room, horse trailer etc. so that emergency workers can locate them should you be unavailable to evacuate your animals.

Prepare an ID packet for each horse and permanently identify each animal by tattoo, microchip, brand, or photographs (4 views, front, rear, left and right side). Record the age, sex, breed, color, distinguishing marks (scars etc.) along with the ID information and keep the packets with your important papers and take them with you if you evacuate.

Have a halter and lead rope readily available for each horse. Using I.D. tags, metal plates or even tape, be sure that your name and phone number (including cell phone and an out of area contact number) are printed on each halter. Be sure that all horses are halter broke and will stand tied for prolonged periods.

Keep your horses vaccination and medical records current, in writing and up to date. Have documentation of any prescribed medicines along with dosing instructions, special feed requirements and the name address and phone numbers of your regular veterinarian available for each horse. If you must evacuate, take these records with you.

As difficult as it may be, prioritize the order in which you wish your animals to be evacuated and post the list in a conspicuous location.

There may be times when it is impossible to take your horses with you during an emergency. Depending on the type of disaster, you need to plan where the animals would be better housed. For example, during wildland fires, do not keep them locked in a flammable barn or enclosure. Sometimes the only alternative is to set them free and hope for the best.

Prepare an emergency kit, and an Equine Emergency Kit and keep it in a safe and accessible location.

Be sure that all trailers and tow vehicles are in GOOD working order, have properly inflated tires and full fuel tanks. As the disaster approaches, have every vehicle properly hitched and facing out of your property in the direction that you intend to travel.

Train all of your horses to load and ride in a variety of trailers and vans.

Make arrangements in advance to have your horses trailered in case of emergency. Have friends on stand-by to assist if you don't have adequate trailering capacity yourself.

Remember that during emergencies you are taking minimum actions to assure your animals safety and survival. Since you may be required to "shelter in place", particularly post flooding or earthquake, have enough feed and water on hand at all times for at least 5 days.

Check for and plan for alternative water sources for at least 5 days worth. Horses require 5 gallons/1000 lbs. body weight of water per day.

Since you or the people coming to assist you during a disaster may be wearing strange clothing (rain gear, fire suppression suits, haz-mat suits) be sure that your horses are pre conditioned to oddly colored, flowing and noisy clothing ahead of time.

If you know that some of your horses are exceedingly nervous or high strung under stressful situations, have your veterinarian prescribe a tranquilizer specifically for each animal so affected and store them with your emergency first aid kit.

Develop a Buddy System. Talk with neighbors and friends and make arrangements to check on each other after a disaster. Let each other know if you are evacuating and to where. Exchange out of area contact phone numbers (i.e. your aunt Tilly in Buffalo). Buddies may agree to pool resources such as generators, water, trailers etc.

Program the Department of Animal Regulation telephone number (805-388-4341 or 1-888-223-PETS) into you cell phone for use during a disaster.

DURING THE DISASTER:

STAY CALM AND FOLLOW YOUR PLAN.

Call the Department of Animal Regulation if you need assistance with evacuation or want evacuation center information. We have staff and trained volunteers known as EVRT (Emergency Volunteer Rescue Team) members ready, willing and able to help in case of emergencies.

EVACUATE EARLY. Do not wait until the roads are jammed and emergency equipment is attempting to move into an area.

Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System stations (KVTA 1520 AM, KHAY 110.7FM) on your radio, visit the Department of Animal Regulation on the web at www.vcar.us or the Fire Department at <http://fire.countyofventura.org> for updated information.