



## **Disaster Preparedness for Livestock**

### **Contact Information**

*\*In case of an emergency always call 911*

- Tuolumne County Animal Control 209-694-2730
- Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department 209-533-5815

*\*For Medical Emergencies*

- Mono Way Veterinary Hospital (Dr. Wes Wittman), Equine
- Large animal Veterinarian 209-532-5507
- Jamestown Veterinary Hospital (Dr. Henderson), Equine Veterinarian 209-984-0232
- Pioneer Equine Hospital (24 hour equine emergency care) 209-847-5951

### **Preparing for Livestock**

- A good disaster plan is vital to keeping yourself and your animal companions safe. But livestock require extra consideration because of their size and specific transportation needs. Since you won't have much time to think or act during an emergency, take time now to create an effective emergency plan.
- Permanently identify each animal by tattoo, microchip, brand, or photograph. In your records, include the animal's age, sex, breed, and color. Keep this information with your important papers. Microchipping

can be done by a local Veterinarian, and ranges in pricing from \$19-\$55 depending on brand. Take pictures of all livestock as well.

- Keep halters ready for your horses. On each halter attach a luggage tag with the following information: the horse's name, your name, email address, your telephone number, and another emergency telephone number where someone can be reached. At the time of evacuation, consider additional temporary identification such as braiding a luggage tag into your horse's mane. We do not recommend spray paint, as its extremely flammable and leaving halters on can cause your horses to get caught on loose branches.
- Place your horse's Coggins tests, veterinary papers, identification photographs, and vital information—such as medical history, allergies, and emergency telephone numbers (veterinarian, family members, etc.)—in a watertight envelope. Store the envelope with your other important papers in a safe place that will be easy for you to access, so you can take them with you when you and your horses evacuate.
- Make arrangements in advance to have your livestock trailered in case of an emergency. If you don't have your own trailer or don't have enough room in your trailer for livestock, be sure you have several people on standby to help evacuate your livestock.
- It is important that your horses are comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. If your horses are unaccustomed to being loaded onto a trailer, practice the procedure so they become used to it. Loading cattle can take precision and years of experience. If you have questions on loading cattle, you must contact a local rancher, or animal control for suggestions. Pigs need ramps to get into trailers, along with pig boards to move them along.
- Know where you can take your livestock in an emergency evacuation. When possible, make arrangements with a friend or another horse owner to stable your horses well beyond the region at risk. Contact animal control if you do not know where to take your livestock. Follow ELITE, and ACES Facebook pages to get updates on evacuation centers during a disaster.

**\* *If you cannot evacuate with your horse or livestock***

- Have a back-up plan in case it's impossible to take your livestock with you when you evacuate. Consider different types of disasters and whether your livestock would be better off in a barn or loose in a field.
- Share your evacuation plans with friends and neighbors. Post detailed instructions in several places—including the barn office or tack room, the horse trailer, and barn entrances—to ensure emergency workers can see them in case you are not able to evacuate your livestock yourself.

**\* *When disaster strikes***

- Don't leave your animals behind. A situation that isn't safe for you won't be safe for your animal companion, either.
- Evacuate immediately. If you wait until the last minute to evacuate, emergency management officials may tell you that you must leave your livestock behind. In this case, your animals could be unattended for days without care, food, or water.
- Should horses be left in the pasture or placed in the barn? If the pasture has good fencing and limited trees, it is probably best to leave the horses outside. Well-constructed pole-barns or concrete block barns may provide safety from flying debris, but the horses may become trapped if the wind collapses the building.
- Electrical lines: Keep livestock out of pastures with power lines.
- Trees with shallow roots will fall easily under hurricane force winds and can injure animals, or destroy the fencing.
- Water:
  - Each horse should have 12 to 20 gallons per day stored.
  - Fill garbage cans with plastic liners and fill all water troughs.
  - Have a generator to run the well if you have large numbers of horses.
- Feed storage:

- Store a minimum of 72 hours of feed and hay (seven days is best). It is very possible that roads will be closed because of down power lines and trees, limiting access to feed stores. Cover hay with water proof tarps and place it on pallets. Keep grain in water tight containers.
- Secure all movable objects
- Turn off electrical power to barn

***\*Prepare a First Aid Emergency Kit***

- An emergency kit for your livestock is vital, and must be something that is easily accessible, and portable. A tote is generally best. The kit should include:
  1. Prescription medication for at least 7-10 days
  2. Halters/Ropes
  3. Important documents such as medical records, and coggins forms. You cannot cross a state line with horses without health certificates, and coggins forms
  4. Photographs of your livestock
  5. Identification methods: luggage tags, livestock paint stick, microchip paperwork, sharpies....
  6. Bandage materials, and ointments
  7. Fly Spray/Fly masks
  8. Pans for food and water, and feed for your livestock
  9. Basic first aid kit for humans