

Before

PLAN AHEAD. Determine the best place for animal confinement in case of a disaster. Find alternate water sources in case power is lost and pumps are not working or have a hand pump. You should have a minimum of three days feed and water on hand.

EVACUATION. Decide where to take animals if evacuation is necessary. Contact fairgrounds, other producers, and stockyards about their policies and ability to take livestock temporarily in an emergency. Have several sites in mind. Familiarize yourself with several evacuation routes to your destination.

IDENTIFICATION. This is critical! Photograph, identify, and inventory your animals. Permanent identification such as brands, tattoos, ear tags, or microchips are best. Temporary identification, such as tags on halters, livestock markers, paint, and duct tape with permanent writing will also work. Include your name and phone number. Keep identification information with you to verify ownership.

MEDICAL RECORDS AND VACCINATIONS. Your animals need to have current vaccinations. Keep medical histories and record special dosing instructions and dietary requirements. Write down contact information for your veterinarian.

VEHICLES. Keep trailers and vans well-maintained, full of gas, and ready to move at all times. Be sure your animals will load. If you don't have your own vehicles, make arrangements with local haulers or neighbors before disaster strikes.

Fire Preparation. In high risk areas, clear fire breaks around your house, barns, and property lines. Keep fire fighting tools in one location.

Flood Preparation. Identify available high ground on your property or other nearby evacuation sites. Be familiar with road availability during flood conditions.

During

Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) on the TV or radio.

Evacuate your livestock early, if possible, to ensure their safety and ease your stress.

Take all vaccination and medical records, the disaster preparedness kit, and enough hay, feed, and water for three days.

Call your destination to make sure space is still available.

Use roads not in use for human evacuation when you transport your animals to your sheltering site.

If you must leave your animals, leave them in the preselected area appropriate for disaster type. Leave enough hay for 48 to 72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems. Power may be lost.

The leading causes of death in large animals during disasters are:

- Collapsed barns
- Kidney failure due to dehydration
- Electrocution from downed power lines
- Fencing failures

After

Check pastures and fences for sharp objects that could injure livestock. Be aware of downed power lines, fallen trees, and debris. Beware of local wildlife, including raccoons and skunks, that may have entered the area and could pose a danger to your animals.

Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and animals can easily become confused and lost.

If you find someone else's animal, call the County Office of Emergency Services or any emergency phone numbers set up after the disaster. Isolate it from your animals until it is returned to its owner or can be examined by a veterinarian. Always use caution when approaching and handling strange or frightened horses or livestock.

If you've lost an animal, contact veterinarians, humane societies, stables, surrounding farms, and other facilities. Listen to the EBS for groups that may be accepting lost animals.

Check with your veterinarian and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch for information about possible disease outbreaks.

PRACTICE YOUR PLAN!

Animal Health and Food Safety
Services
Animal Health Branch
1220 N Street, Room A-107
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-1447
www.cdfa.ca.gov
lganim.wpd 10/98

Disaster Preparedness Kit

- Portable radio and extra batteries



- Plastic trash barrel with a lid

- Water buckets
- Stored feeds
- Animal restraint equipment (ropes and halters)
- First Aid items
- Tarps
- Portable Generators
- Flashlights
- Lime or Bleach
- Leads and Halters
- Wire cutters
- Sharp knife

Emergency Contact Information

You will need to have your emergency contact information in one easily accessible place. This information is different in every county. By filling in the information below, you will be prepared to reach the key animal disaster resources in your county.

Office of Emergency Services County Animal Coordinator

County Animal Control

California Veterinary Medical Association County Disaster Coordinator (Call (916) 649-0599 for your county's contact information)

County Agricultural Commissioner

Your Veterinarian

Potential Evacuation Sites

Developed by the State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, Animal Health Branch, Animal Care Program, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 654-1447.



Disaster Preparedness for Livestock Owners



Animal Health and
Food Safety Services
Animal Health Branch