

TIPS CONCERNING HORSES & LIVESTOCK



- Store photographs of horses and other individual livestock at a location away from your home. Keep duplicates of ownership, registration and brand inspection papers in a safe place away from your home. Horses at evacuation centers cannot legally be without legal proof of ownership.
- Provide identification for horses and individual livestock. Keep halters available with nametags attached to them or a telephone number marked on them. In emergency evacuation situations you can also use marked duct-tape collars and spray paint on the sides of horses to provide identification.
- Maintain an emergency evacuation packet in your livestock area where emergency crews will clearly see it. Heavy sheet protectors and real estate Information boxes are valuable in protecting and displaying this information. Provide the numbers and description of each horse as well as any pertinent information regarding transportation, care, medications and special housing needs.
- If at all possible, have adequate trailer space for transporting all of your livestock. Make sure that all of your horses will easily load into trailers. If necessary, seek professional help in teaching horses to load quickly and safely. Failure to train horses to load easily risks the lives of horses, owners and emergency crews. Should emergency crews need to use your trailer to move your animals, it is essential that a hitch ball be clearly available that fits that trailer.
- Avoid unnecessary lightning risk in pastures. Provide shelter for horses and fence off isolated trees where horses may congregate in storms.
- Prepare for severe blizzards. We can get blizzards in excess of 3 feet with blowing and drifting. You may be without power and water for several days. Have 10-14 days of feed on hand in the winter and have a woodstove or camp stove on which to melt water. Keep horse blankets and a first aid kit available. Make certain your personal winter gear is adequate for your family.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CONCERNING ANIMALS IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

INTERNET AND OTHER RESOURCES

- Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies: www.aaf-fd.org/cfawa_resources.htm
- American Humane Association (located in Englewood, CO 303-885-2179) www.americanhumane.org/prepart.html
- Humane Society of the United States: (202)-452-1100. HSUS can provide a notebook on disaster planning for communities. www.hsus.org
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Has materials on animal related subjects at www.fema.gov/fema/anemer.htm.
- Red Cross, animal related information: www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/pets.html
- AnimalDisasters.com is a site dedicated to issues concerning animals in emergency situations: www.animaldisasters.com
- Hotels, motels and campgrounds that allow animals can be found at: www.Petswelcome.com
- Links to equine emergency preparedness information can be found at the Horse Review: horsereview.com/disaster_preparedness_directory.htm
- United Animal Nations, Emergency Animal Rescue Service: www.uan.org/ears/index.html
- Information on training horses to load into trailers can be accessed at: www.kbrhorse.net/tra/trailer1.html
www.horse-guide.com/Training/Trailer_Loading/
www.todayshorse.com/Articles/HorseTrailer.htm

Intermountain Humane Society has more detailed information and downloadable forms for disaster planning at our website: www.imhs.org

For the safety of your family, pets and livestock, please spend some time today planning how to survive an emergency situation!

Keeping Pets and Livestock Safe



Preparing for Fire and Other Disasters

This information is provided by:
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WHY YOU NEED TO PLAN TODAY!



Families who live in the foothills and mountain areas of Colorado must live with the risk of wildfires, floods and other disasters. The recent devastation of the High Meadow Fire in June 2000 left many families homeless, some pets and livestock dead and most of the remaining community in shock. Only the tireless work of fire crews prevented many more houses from burning until fire fighters and the changing weather finally defeated the fire. We know we will eventually have another fire in populated areas along the Front Range. Will it happen this year? Will the next fire threaten your home, your family and your animals?

This brochure provides information on how to prepare your family, home, livestock and pets for emergency evacuation in the event of a disaster. Only through planning will you maximize the likelihood that your family and animals can evacuate to a safe location. Disasters that could affect our community include wildfire, flash floods, earthquake, blizzards, severe lightning storms and nuclear or biological threats. In other areas, tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes and tidal waves can provide additional threats.

Animal lives are necessarily going to take second priority to human lives in an emergency situation, so the better prepared we are for all aspects of disaster management, both as individuals and as a community, the more likely we are to enable local emergency personnel to commit resources to saving animals.

Individual Planning, Neighborhood Planning and Community Planning are the best methods by which we can seek to protect human lives, animals, homes, and businesses. Other resources take time to mobilize and will not aid in the initial stages of evacuation and response to the crisis.

This information was compiled with the assistance of the *Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies* and with information from the *American Humane Association* and the *Humane Society of the United States*. IMHS is grateful for this assistance. More detailed information and forms are available on the IMHS website at www.imhs.org.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATIONS



Once disaster strikes, you will probably not be able to enter or re-enter the area personally to evacuate your pets and livestock. Neighbors and emergency crews may be the only ones who can evacuate your animals.

If you are at home when a disaster strikes, you should be prepared to take all your animals with you when you leave. Leaving animals not only endangers animals, but it causes people to try to return to their homes, risking their lives and the lives of emergency personnel. Make prior arrangements with family or friends out of your area where you can house your pets and livestock in the event of an emergency.

Participate in neighborhood and local disaster planning programs. If possible, work with neighbors or homeowner associations to reach out to as many residents as possible. Help draft neighborhood plans to help ensure the safe evacuation of each other's pets and livestock during a crisis.

During an evacuation, families may become separated. Every family should designate specific friends or relatives to serve as telephone contacts for family members. At least one contact should be completely out the area, serving as a message center during a regional disaster.

Prepare your own property to maximally withstand natural disasters. In our area, the most productive steps are cleaning out flammable slash and debris from your property, thinning trees where appropriate and removing trees and flammable items adjacent your home and outbuildings. Contact your local fire department or the U.S. Forest Service concerning their specific recommendations on wildfire prevention measures.



TIPS FOR PET OWNERS



Post evacuation information clearly at your home concerning your pets, including the numbers of pets in the household, the location of evacuation supplies, signed permission for emergency crews to enter the premises to remove animals, local contact numbers and a contact that lives out of the area. Place this information in a durable sheet protector or real estate information box and place it where emergency crews or neighbors will see.

Have portable carriers available for cats, small dogs and other small pets. Have leashes for larger dogs. Place luggage tags on carriers or use markers to mark them with your name and phone number. This is especially critical for people with birds and exotic pets that may need special environmental conditions. These pets may also need to have special cages for transportation (with covers) and you may want to have hot-water bottles available to prevent chilling during cooler weather.

Compile a list of animal shelters and boarding kennels in your region where you might be able to seek emergency housing for animals in an emergency.

Identify your pets! Have I.D. tags made for all pets to wear on their collars. Consider placement of permanent tattoos or microchips for pets to maximize their identification potential. Have pictures of your pets stored away from your home to aid in their identification.

Keep your pets current on vaccinations and keep copies of vaccination records available, in case you need to board your pets or leave the area with your animals.

If you evacuate your own animals, be sure to bring a pet first-aid kit, including any prescription medications. In addition, if there is adequate time, bring food, water, veterinary records, dishes, a can opener, blankets, leashes, paper towels, toys and grooming utensils. Place emergency equipment in a convenient location and/or make a list of needed items. Keep important personal and financial materials together for quick removal as well. You may have only minutes to leave in an actual emergency, so be prepared!