



Disaster Preparedness Tip Sheet

What would be required to protect your horse in the event of a fire or earthquake? Can you satisfy these requirements within your own property or neighborhood? Let us look at some of the possible requirements.

- **WATER** - Do you have enough to sustain each horse for at least two days? Do you know how much your horse(s) drink in a day? Can you store sufficient water where the horse(s) are kept? Maybe there is a garage that you can store containers of water and transport it to the horse(s) if need be.
- **FEED** - Is it the barn practice to restock hay when you have three days worth of feed left, rather than when there is only enough to feed the next meal?
- **TRAILER** - If given sufficient notice of threat, could you evacuate yourself? Would you want to evacuate? Would you be able to assist your neighbor(s)?
- **TURN OUTS** - What is the fencing made of where the horse(s) are kept and would surrounding brush cause it to burn? Are there pastures or arenas that the horse(s) could be turned into in your neighborhood?
- **ESCAPE ROUTE** - How many directions can you go in (safely) from your barn at any given time? How many of these could easily be blocked by fire or avalanche?
- **UTILITIES** - In case of earthquake, does every one involved with your horses know where the electrical circuit breaker and water shutoff are located? If you have a metal barn, electricity should be turned off until you are confident that a short has not occurred, which could cause electrocution to people or animals. The same caution should be taken for barns built of other materials for fire risks.
- **NEIGHBORS** - Do you know your neighbors? Your neighbors who have horses may have some of the things needed in an emergency that you need and visa versa. You should meet with all your horse owning neighbors and develop a buddy system.
- **SPECIAL NEEDS** - Can you handle the horses kept by your neighbors? Can they handle your animals? If there is a stallion that requires special treatment maybe his stalling needs to be evaluated to make it possible for him to stay put in an emergency.
- **BOARDING** - If you are at a boarding facility, does the owner or manager agree with you as to the need for precautions? You may want to group together with the other boarders to initiate change or decide to get together and make improvements.