

# 24 Step Disaster Plan

## Long Range Disaster Planning

**1** Familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that could occur in your area. Develop a written plan of action for each and keep the plan with your important papers. Review your Disaster Plan regularly with everyone involved. Post emergency numbers in a visible location in the stable or barn.

**2** Survey your property for the best location for animal confinement for each type of disaster. Identify food and water sources that do not rely on electricity, which could be lost during an emergency. Decide where to take the horses if evacuation becomes necessary.

**3** Photograph the left and right sides of each horse as well as its face and medial and lateral lower legs. Have someone take a photo of your horse with you in the picture, to help identify the horse as yours when picking it up from the evacuation area.



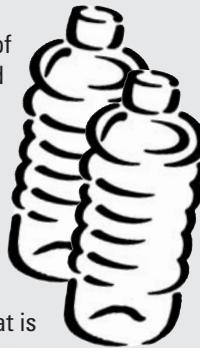
Record its breed, sex, age and colour and keep copies with important papers. As an option you can permanently identify your horses by tattoo, brand or microchip. Temporary identification by tags on the fetlocks and halters, painted or etched hooves, or even clipping an ID number onto the horse are also options.

**5** Keep your horse's vaccinations and boosters up-to-date. Record the dates, dosages and types of medications/health products the animal receives and any dietary requirements. Keep copies of this with your important papers and with your Disaster Plan.

**6** Keep your horse trailer or van insured, in good condition, and checked for safety. Keep your towing vehicle insured and in good running order, with gas tank full and spare gas on hand.

**7** Make sure your horse will load! The trailer is useless if you can't get the horse to go in.

**8** Maintain a stock of hay and grain, and keep extra medications and veterinary supplies on hand. Consider keeping a tranquilizer on hand should a horse become panicked during a crisis — ask your veterinarian what is available and what you are allowed to administer.

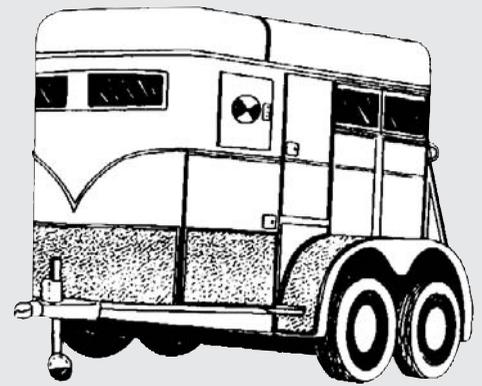


## Advance Disaster Planning

**9** Have a halter and lead rope designated for EACH horse and hang it outside its stall or on the paddock gates.

**10** Keep extra feed buckets at your barn, to be sent with the horse when evacuated.

**11** Stockpile at least three or more days of feed and hay. Stockpile medications and supplements. Store extra water in large containers, eg: rubber garbage bins. Keep food and medications in an airtight, waterproof container, and rotate them once every three months.

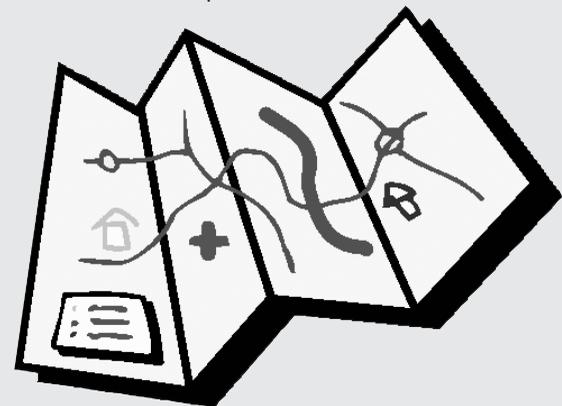


**12** Keep extra bedding, pitchforks and shovels on hand. If space allows, keep an extra wheelbarrow.

**13** Make ID tags handy for your horses (luggage tags work well) with your name, address, horse's name and description, your vet's name and phone number, feeding instructions and special needs. These can be attached to the halters or manes and tails. Keep these with your Disaster Preparedness Kit.

**14** Clearly identify for your volunteers which horses should be evacuated first, in the event that all animals cannot be moved. Make sure all personnel are aware of your wishes.

**15** Compile a portable First Aid Kit and keep it with your Disaster Preparedness Kit.



**16** Obtain a map of your area and the area you will evacuate your horse to. Familiarize yourself with the area around your evacuation barn. Learn the routes. Keep this map with your Disaster Preparedness Kit. Check out the barn you hope to evacuate to in order to make sure that it is suitable.

**17** Put all the emergency phone numbers in your Disaster Preparedness Kit.

**18** Check to ensure that all your advance preplanning is still valid.

### Prior to Evacuation

**19** Get a Ziplock bag and put in the copies of your horse's registration papers, insurance papers, the photographs you have taken, copies of the identification papers (write "copy" across the papers.) Fill out an index card with the same information as on the ID tag (given above) and wrap this around the horse's halter with duct tape. Do not put original registration papers in the bag. Remember, during an emergency not everyone is honest.



**20** Braid luggage-type tags with the same information as on the index card into the horse's mane and tail (do not tie around the tail).



**21** If your horse is not permanently identified with a microchip or brand, use small animal clippers and clip your phone number onto your horse's neck. Spray paint or etch the hooves. If your horse is being trailered to the evacuation site by someone other than you, an ID number may be drawn onto the horse with an auction crayon.

**22** Pack into your trailer all the extra buckets, feed and hay that you have stockpiled for your horses evacuation, including the portable first aid kit.

**23** Transport or prepare to transport your horse to a safe evacuation site. It is best to do this before it is an emergency, even several days in advance. Do not wait until the last minute to remove your animals. Write down and keep in a safe place, the address of the location your horse has been evacuated to.

**24** If you are unable or unwilling to remove your horse, make sure all the preparations to keep them on the property are in place — that someone knows that you are on the property and have your horse with you. If you are staying with your horse on the property, take two plywood boards and spray paint on one side of the board: "Have Horses, need help!" and the other side: "Have horses, OK for now." Keep these in the barn or near the house. Use them to keep rescue and emergency personnel informed in case the communication lines are severed.

*The above Disaster Preparedness Information is courtesy of Horse Council BC.*