

When it comes to an emergency, the best approach is to hope for the best but plan for the worst. Since witnessing the destructiveness of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, public and private partners throughout North Carolina have worked to develop disaster response plans for livestock and companion animals.

The Equine Disaster Response Alliance (EDRA) is a collaborative effort between groups that represent the broad interests of the equine industry and owners. EDRA is working hard to develop a comprehensive transportation and sheltering plan customized to address the specific needs faced by the horse industry during a disaster.

EDRA is a joint venture of:

- N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- N.C. Horse Council
- N.C. State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- N.C. Cooperative Extension/N.C. Extension Horse Husbandry
- Private veterinarians



As a horse owner, what can I do today to prepare for a disaster?

Remember, preparation is key, and your horses are your responsibility! Here are some tips to help you prepare:

- ☐ Be familiar with the types of disasters that could occur in your area, and develop a written action plan for each.
- ☐ Keep a stock of hay, grain, water, medications and veterinary supplies.
- ☐ Decide where you will take your horses if evacuation becomes necessary.
- ☐ Keep your horses' vaccinations and boosters up-to-date.
- ☐ Compile all important documents in one location. This pile should include the following for each animal:
 - registration papers;
 - medical history, dosages and types of medications/health products required;
 - dietary requirements;
 - current Coggins test; and
 - photographs (left and right sides, face, medial and lateral lower legs as well as a photo of you with your horse).
- ☐ Train your horse to load and unload.

For more tips, please visit www.nchorsecouncil.com/images/24StepDisasterPlan.pdf.

What emergency sheltering options are available to me during a disaster?

For a current list of shelters, view the N.C. Equine Directory located online at www.ncagr.com/markets/livestock/horse/directory. Other helpful resources are available on this site as well, including veterinarians and horse transporters. You can also call your local Cooperative Extension office or Emergency Management (phone numbers can be found in the phonebook).

What are some tips for marking horses during an emergency?

Make ID tags such as luggage tags for your horses. On each tag, clearly write your name, address, horse's description, feeding instructions, special needs and your vet's name and phone number. This tag can be attached to your horse's halter with duct tape or braided into his mane and tail (do not tie around the tail). Consider having your horse permanently identified by tattoo, brand or microchip. However, if your horse does not have one of these permanent identifiers, use small clippers to clip your phone number onto your horse's neck or write your number on him with an auction crayon. You might also consider spray painting his hooves.

What are some things I should have on hand in case of emergency?

- ☐ Photographs, registration papers and medical records for each horse
- ☐ Enough hay, feed and water to last three or more days
- ☐ A halter and lead for each horse with the horse's name on the halter
- ☐ Medications and veterinary supplies
- ☐ Extra feed buckets
- ☐ Extra bedding, pitchforks, shovels and a wheelbarrow
- ☐ A portable first-aid kit
- ☐ A map and list of phone numbers (veterinarian, transporter, insurance company, etc.)



Remember, your horses are your responsibility! Take steps today to ensure your animals are cared for during a disaster.

For additional information, please visit:
N.C. Department of Agriculture
www.ncagr.com/markets/livestock/horse

N.C. Horse Council
www.nchorsecouncil.com

N.C. State Animal Response Team
www.ncsart.com

You may also contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Emergency Management.



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



Preparing for a Disaster

Tips from the Equine Disaster Response Alliance



*"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining."
John F. Kennedy*