



Before a disaster

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 installed. You should have a minimum of three days of feed and water on hand.



Evacuation

Decide where you want to take your horses if evacuation is necessary. Contact fairgrounds, equestrian centers, and private farms/stables about their policies and abilities to take horses temporarily in an emergency. Have several sites in mind. Familiarize yourself with several evacuation routes to your destination.

Identification

Proper identification is crucial for your animal's safety. Permanent options include tattoos, brands, etched hooves, or microchips. Temporary options include tags on halters, writing in permanent marker on hooves or duct tape folded over the main or tail with permanent writing. Include your name and phone number. Keep identification with you to verify ownership. Add a contact in your phone for each animal with a photo, microchip number, brand ID, photos of vaccine records, and other important information.

Medical Records and Vaccinations

Your horses need to have current vaccinations. Keep medical histories and record special dosing instructions, allergies, and dietary requirements. Write down contact information for your vet.

Vehicles

Keep trailers and vehicles 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 companies 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 a disaster

- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on the television or radio and your cellphone for wireless emergency alerts.
- If possible, evacuate your horses early.
- Take all vaccination and medical records, the emergency disaster kit, and enough hay, feed, and water for three days.
- Call your destination to make sure the site is still available.
- If you must leave your animals, leave them in the area preselected for the type of disaster.
- 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 a disaster

- Check that fences are intact and free of sharp objects that could injure horses. Be aware of downed power lines, fallen trees, and debris.
- Beware of local wildlife that may have entered the area and may pose a threat.
- Familiar scents and landmarks may have changed, and animals can easily become confused and lost.
- If you find someone else's animal, isolate it from your animals and report it to Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS).
- Use caution when approaching and handling strange or frightened horses. Work in pairs.
- If you have lost an animal, contact WCRAS, neighbors, other stables, and veterinarians
- Listen to the EAS for groups that may be accepting lost animals.

Practice your plan

Emergency Contact Information

Have your emergency contact information in one easily accessible place. Be prepared to contact the key animal disaster resources in Washoe County.

- **Washoe County Emergency Management:**
Phone: 311 or 775.328.2003
- **Nevada Department of Agriculture:**
Phone: 775-353-6301
- **Washoe County Regional Animal Services:**
Phone: 775-322-3647
- **Sign-up for Emergency Wireless Alerts at:**
www.washoecounty.gov/em/RegionalAlerts



Checklist

Step 1: Documents

Gather your pet's important information. Store hard copies in a safe space.

- Copy of veterinary records
 - Health Certificate & Coggins Test results
 - Vaccination documents
 - Copy of prescriptions for medication
 - Proof of ownership (adoption or medical records)
 - Horse description (Name, Breed, Sex, Color, Weight etc.)
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- Recent photographs of each of your horses
 - Waterproof container for documents
 - Microchip information (Microchip number, name and number of microchip company)
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- Important contact information (name, phone, and address)
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Step 2: Food, Water, and Medications

Make a kit with these essential items. Keep it handy in case you need to evacuate quickly.

- Water (Consider adding a water tank to your horse trailer if you don't already have one.)
- Feed/hay (enough for 48 to 72 hours)
- Feed pans and hay nets
- Water buckets
- Feeding instructions for each animal, and a 2-week supply of medication for each animal (if necessary)
- Medication instructions (if applicable)

Step 3: Other Supplies

Complete your kit by adding other important items.

- Halter and lead rope for each horse
- Hose
- Broom
- Muck fork
- Fly Spray
- Pocket knife
- Flashlight
- Map
- Hoof pick
- Horse first aid kit



Evacuation Emergency Contacts

Where you'll take your horses

Evacuation Site Option A

Contact Person

Street Address

City/State

Driving Directions

Evacuation Site Option B

Contact Person

Street Address

City/State

Driving Directions

Evacuation Site Option C

Contact Person

Street Address

City/State

Driving Directions

Phone numbers you might need

Outside Area Emergency Contact

(Who You Will Call To Update About Your Situation)

Veterinarian

Secondary Veterinarian

County Agriculture Extension Office

Local Emergency Dispatch Center

Animal Control