

Livestock and Horse Self- Evacuation Information & Form Kit

2013

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INTRODUCTION

Horse and livestock owners need to have a plan in place, which may need to be activated in the event of evacuation in their area. Horse and livestock owners must be responsible for their stock in emergencies. The information and forms here are provided to serve as guidelines from which individual horse and livestock owners, trainers and boarding stables can create their own evacuation plans.

ASSESSING YOUR SITUATION

The best time to assess your evacuation situation is well before there is a threat or potential threat to your property. Much like knowing where the flashlight and batteries are before the lights go out on a stormy night, having an evacuation plan with contingencies in place before an emergency will help you to act with optimal efficiency in case of threat.

Go through the Assessment Check List below. Are you comfortable with your capacity and capability? What are the areas where you need practice: Working on getting the livestock to load better; Honing your trailering skills (backing and hooking up the rig)? Is there a neighbor who may need your help?

Assessment Check List:

- How many animals do you have? _____
- How many trailer spaces do you have? _____
- How many tow vehicles do you have? _____

(Example: You have 8 horses and 2 trailers, a stock trailer that can hold 6 horses and a 2-horse tandem trailer. You have adequate trailer spaces, but do you have 2 tow vehicles?)

- Do all of your horses know how to load? _____
- If you have inadequate trailer space or tow vehicles, can you call on a neighbor for assistance?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

- Do you have neighbors with animals who will need your help?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

- How many ways out are there from your property? _____
- Are you familiar with all the roads in your area? _____
- Do you need 4WD for any of them? _____
- Can your vehicles travel on them with animals in the trailers? _____
- Are you and others in your household able to drive a vehicle with a loaded horse trailer in tow? _____
- How many other animals can you take in on your property? _____
- What types of animals can you safely harbor? _____

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Although there are a number of disasters generated by nature and humans that can cause evacuations, the greatest threat in Southern Oregon comes from fire. If a fire is in our area, we will see or smell a fire before seeing it on the news or getting an evacuation notice. Sometimes, fire spreads quickly and follows an unpredictable course and we do not get any notice or have a lot of time to react. If you are away from home when fire is spreading in your area, you may not be able to get back in. In these dire instances, everyone must do the best they can. No one plan is going to be perfect for every situation, but some preplanning with alternatives may help you safely evacuate your animals.

During large fires and other emergencies, Josephine County will have special Information Office phone numbers. The local radio stations and County web site will provide these numbers on an ongoing and via frequent announcements. Do not call 9-1-1 for fire or evacuation information. Use it only for immediate threat emergencies. You should also develop a “phone tree” with friends and neighbors so that in case of threat, you can coordinate efforts and offer help where needed or get help you may need. It is very important to keep the phone tree up to date. Check it at least once a year for accuracy.

In the case of a threat or actual evacuation, keep a log of whom you called, whom you left messages for and what actions were promised/agreed upon by each party.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Not every evacuation will require you travel far from home or to a formal evacuation location. In fact, if you can avoid taking your animals to a mass evacuation center you can eliminate a lot of stress for yourself, your horses and the volunteers who run them. Part of the phone tree concept is to set up evacuation locations with friends and family who do not live in your “neighborhood”. Work out scenarios and agreements in advance of any threat. Example: “If you have to evacuate your horses, bring them to our house and we can put them in the arena.” Think about provisions for water, shelter, feeding and fencing.

Fairgrounds are sometimes used for large animal evacuations when there are wide-spread wildfires. Before you load up the horses and head for the fairgrounds though, be certain that there is something set up there. Often an incident is developing faster than provisions can be put into place. The Josephine County Fairgrounds should be considered as a last resort due to the lack of County resources and the complexity that such an effort would entail. Understand that in most instances, there will not be a mass evacuation center set up for large animals at all. This is another reason to have a plan of your own with alternatives developed in advance, so that you will have a place to bring your horses and livestock.

HOW WILL YOU GET THERE?

You have the truck and trailer hooked up; the horses loaded and you are heading out to your friend’s house well away from the fire area. You get out onto the road toward her house, only to find it is blocked by fire and equipment. What are your alternatives? Do you have another way around? Can you maneuver your rig on those roads? Before an emergency situation, when you are anxious and

worried about your house and driving in the smoke and chaos, is the time to know all your escape routes. Know the roads, the turns, and the steep hills and gully crossings, etc., before having to travel them in a stressful situation. If there are dirt or gravel roads, or a tricky road condition such as a narrow bridge that you may have to use as an alternative, travel them with your empty trailer as a practice run and be confident you could handle them with a full trailer in an emergency.

WHEN SHOULD YOU LEAVE?

“If in doubt, take them out.” Definitely leave if you receive a reverse 9-1-1 call or a visit from a Law Enforcement Official advising you to evacuate. Many households have eschewed landlines for cell phones - remember that you may not receive a reverse 9-1-1 call if you no longer have a landline. If you know there is emergency in the area, keep the radio or television on and watch for updates. Start early and do not get trapped.

A NOTE ABOUT ROAD CLOSURES

During emergencies, especially during fires, road closures become necessary. Roads are closed to evacuated areas and during times there is active firefighting, danger from trees falling, downed power lines and firefighting equipment moving. If you are trying to get back in to evacuate your horses and are stopped by a road closure, you must obey the closure. You will be upset, unhappy, scared. If you remain calm and are polite and patient, you will be able to get through as soon as it is possible. Law Enforcement personnel understand your anxiety and will let you through, often in groups with escort, when Fire Officials feel it is safe enough to do so. Arguing and threats may get you arrested. You will not get through if it is not safe no matter how much you plead or argue. Save your energy.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED?

First and foremost, you will need a plan. Where are you going and how will you get there? Unless the flames are licking at your barn door, do not just load up and go without a plan. Make sure your rig is in “towable” condition. As a matter of course, you should have your wheel bearings packed annually and frequently check the condition of your floorboards, brakes and tires. Trailer tires can have good tread but the sidewalls can be worn and splitting from age and weather exposure. How is your spare? Is it usable and do you have a tire iron that fit the lug nuts? Can you jack it up if you need to change a tire? Do the lights and turn signals work? Is your truck fueled up? Are the tires properly inflated? Do you have the correct hitch drop and ball size on it?

For the Animals:

- Halters and lead ropes in good condition.
- Buckets for water and at least 5 gallons of water for each animal.
- Feed.
- Necessary medications or supplements.
- Fly Spray
- Livestock Markers

It is a good idea to mark your animals with your phone number and coat them with fly spray BEFORE loading them into the trailer. When you get to your destination either you or the animals or all of you) may be riled up and you do not need them dancing around while you try to do these things.

Use livestock markers for a water resistant long lasting result. If you are leaving your animals somewhere that you are not staying, be certain to leave your name and contact information with the person in charge. Neatly block print the information in pen, so that anyone can read it. Leave more than one phone number and try to include at least one landline number in case you are out of cell phone range. Be sure to leave medication instructions, too. If a supplement or medication is not absolutely vital and can be skipped for a few days, leave them behind.

For Transporting:

- Ensure Cell Phone is Charged & Take Charger
- Tow Vehicle
- Fuel Tank Level Full
- Tires Properly Inflated
- Correct Hitch
- Trailer
- Lights, Turn Signals and Brakes in Working Order
- Spare Tire, Jack, Tire Iron

- Floors are Safe
- Left notice(s) for fire fighters/ law enforcement that animals are evacuated.
Location(s) of Notice(s) _____
- Potable Water
- Flashlight
- Gloves
- Mask or Bandana
- Snacks
- Toilet Paper
- First Aid Kit

ONE FINAL NOTE

Every emergency situation is going to be unique. Chances are, no plan is going to fit your needs exactly. But having a plan in place will help you adjust more quickly to any situation.

FORMS- PHONE TREE

<p>Family Name</p>	<p>Type of Animal</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>Quantity</p>
<p>Names of Individuals in Family</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>	
<p>Home Address</p>	<p>Emergency Contact</p>
<p>Cell Phones</p>	<p>Emergency Contact Phone</p>
<p>Home Phone</p>	<p>Types of Animals They Can Shelter</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p> <p>6. _____</p> <p>Quantity</p>
<p>Trailer Space/Type of Trailer</p>	<p>Special Needs</p>
<p>Notes</p>	<p>Notes</p>

CHECKLIST FOR EVACUATING YOUR ANIMALS

- **Tow Vehicle**
 - Fuel Tank Level
 - Tires Properly Inflated
 - Correct Hitch

- **Trailer**
 - Tires Properly Inflated
 - Lights, Turn Signals and Brakes in Working Order
 - Spare Tire, Jack, Tire Iron
 - Floors are Safe

- Location Taken From _____
- How Many Total _____
- Number Each:

Mares _____ Geldings _____ Foals _____ Stallions _____ Cows _____ Sheep _____
 Alpaca/Llama _____ Goats _____ Dogs _____ Cats _____ Other _____ Other _____

- Location You are Taking Animals _____

- **Supplies**
 - Halters and Leads
 - Fly Spray
 - Medications and Instructions
 - Feed
 - Buckets
 - Water
 - Take Digital Photo
 - Bolt Cutters
 - Wire Cutters
 - Hammer
 - Potable Water
 - Flashlight
 - Gloves
 - Mask or Bandana
 - Snacks
 - Toilet Paper
 - First Aid Kit
 - Cell phone charger

- Actions**
- _____ Ensure cell phone is charged
- _____ Animals are marked with phone Numbers
- _____ Left Notice for Firefighters that Animals Have Been Evacuated
- Notice left where? Location:

 Location

☒ Told _____ where you were taking the animals

NOTICE TO EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Owner Name _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers _____

The following animals have been evacuated from this property:

How Many Total: _____

Number Each:

Mares _____ Geldings _____ Foals _____ Stallions _____ Cows _____ Sheep _____

Alpaca/Llamas _____ Goats _____ Dogs _____ Cats _____ Other _____ Other _____

Location Animals Taken to: _____