

DISASTER PLANNING



FOR YOUR LIVESTOCK AND FARM

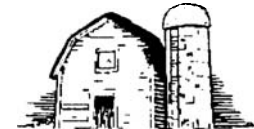
*Materials produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in conjunction
with the American Red Cross Northern California
Disaster Preparedness Network*

PREPARE YOUR BARN AND PROPERTY

- **Post a diagram of your emergency and evacuation plan** in several visible places throughout your barn(s). List emergency numbers.
- **Inform all employees and owners of safety rules and evacuation plan.**
Hold disaster drills and practice emergency procedures
- **Find or create several alternative water sources on your property.**
Fires use a lot of water, earthquakes can break water lines and water can become contaminated in a flood.
Use storage tanks, water troughs and running streams.
- **Reduce fire hazards in and around your barn(s).**
 - Enforce your "No Smoking" rule.
 - Store gasoline, paints, solvents and other flammables in a separate area.
 - Store hay, straw, shavings, manure and wood away from barn.
 - Clear vegetation around all buildings (within 50 feet), *prune overhanging trees.*
 - Clean gutters and roofs regularly.
- **Identify at least 2 escape routes from your farm.**
Roads may be blocked in an emergency.
- **Consider buying a gas generator** to run water pumps, electricity and emergency equipment.
- **Have all employees trained in First Aid and CPR.**
- **Work with Your Local Fire Department and Sheriff's Department** to develop an appropriate and effective emergency plan. Ask them to make yearly inspections of fire extinguishers and storage of combustibles.

Keep a disaster kit in a covered container.
Use only in an emergency.

- Food and water for each animal for at least three days
- First Aid kit and handbook
- Leather or cotton halters and leads, collars, hog snares, hot shot, etc.
- Flashlight and portable radio with batteries
- Buckets for food and water
- Blindfolds
- Hose, ladder, shovel
- Identification photos and medical records of each animal (if possible)
- Rope or wire and wire cutters, gloves, wrenches for turning off gas and water valves, any other tools you may need
- Blankets
- Food and water for three days for each employee
- A change of clothing for employees



Are You Ready if a Disaster Strikes Your Farm?

What will you do with your animals? Your best defense against any emergency is to **BE PREPARED!**

Your first priority is human safety. People must be able to help the animals; animals can't take care of themselves.

TO PREPARE YOUR FARM:

Learn which types of disasters can occur in your area and develop a specific plan of action for each one. Each situation will require different methods of preparation, evacuation and sheltering.

Assemble an emergency disaster kit for your farm. Include water, food, equipment and tools. Place the kit in an easily accessible spot.

Familiarize all employees with emergency procedures and location of emergency equipment. Focus on handling of animals in an emergency, particularly those with special needs (stallions, bulls, pregnant females, etc).

Maintain trucks and trailers in good condition and available at all times. Accustom your animals to loading and trailering quickly and calmly.

Identify your animals with freeze marking, branding, tattoos, ear tags or microchipping. Store medical records, papers and photographs in a safe place.

Form a neighborhood group to watch out for each other and help in an emergency. Teach them your farm's procedures and handling of the animals.

IF YOU MUST LEAVE ANIMALS BEHIND

- Leave animals in a safe, enclosed area. Do not let them loose to fend for themselves.
- Put enough food (hay, not grain) and water out for at least 48 hours in non-spill containers.
- Post a sign for rescue workers noting types and numbers of animals left.
- Leave extra food in a safe place accessible to rescuers but not to animals.
- Return to check on your animals as soon as emergency relief workers deem it safe.

IF YOU LOSE AN ANIMAL

- Check all local shelters, veterinarians and emergency animal holding facilities.
- Give a complete description of your animal, including photos.
- Post flyers in your neighborhood, advertise in local newspapers.
- Keep searching; animals will be frightened and disoriented.

IF YOU FIND AN ANIMAL

- Contact local shelters and animal holding facilities with a complete description of animal.
- Post flyers and place advertisements in newspapers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Organize or get involved with a neighborhood rescue group.
- Join a rescue group to learn disaster rescue techniques.
- Help organize safe emergency holding facilities such as fairgrounds, farms and racetracks.
- Lobby for veterinary representation in the State and Federal Department of Agriculture for appropriate disaster response.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

- **Stay calm and follow your plan**
Your animals will sense the danger and may panic.
- **Evacuate early:** roads may be blocked with traffic and emergency vehicles.

IN A BARN FIRE:

- Do not enter a building that is already burning - smoke inhalation can kill you.
- Blindfold animals if necessary.
- Put halters on animals and lead to a safe area.
- Close barn doors - animals may try to return to the barn and become trapped inside.

IN A WILDFIRE:

- If you are caught in the open, go to bare or rocky areas. Don't try to outrun a fire!
- Let animals with you run loose. They will have a better chance to find safety.
- If a fire is approaching your farm, load your animals and evacuate early to a safe place away from the fire. Fires move quickly; don't hesitate.

IN AN EARTHQUAKE:

- Remember to STOP, DROP AND HOLD; prepare for aftershocks.
- Reassure your animals as they will be frightened.
- Do not enter buildings that may be damaged.
- If an animal is trapped or injured, contact emergency personnel immediately.

IN A FLOOD:

- At the first sign of rising waters, move animals, feed and water to higher ground. Act quickly, as flood waters can inundate an area and eliminate escape routes.