

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE DURING AN EMERGENCY.

- ✓ Have an Evacuation Plan
- ✓ Prepare a Disaster Kit & Information Packet for each Horse
- ✓ Mitigate your Home and Outbuildings



TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! Avoid delay. Do not wait until the last minute to evacuate. It's best to evacuate your large animals during the Pre-Evacuation Notification status. However, disasters are unpredictable and can spread quickly so be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. With heightened tension, animals can become uncooperative and may not comply with commands. Access to regularly driven routes may become impassable – be prepared for delays and congestion on the roadways. If you have time, leave a sign reading, "Evacuated with Pets" on your front door or front gate/mailbox for first responders. Include your name and contact information.



STAY AWARE: Emergencies can happen at any time – be mindful of weather that may precipitate an event requiring emergency evacuation such as a wildland fire or flash flooding. Be sure to sign up for CodeRed at douglascountycodered.com to receive emergency notifications and follow @dcsheriff on Twitter for up-to-the-minute information. Monitor local TV and radio.

Prepare to
**EVACUATE
YOUR HORSE**
During a Disaster

Provided by
**Douglas County Office
of Emergency Management**

www.dcsheriff.net/emergencymanagement
303-660-7589

Douglas-Elbert County Horse Council

www.dechc.org
303-688-0553

Register for CodeRed at
DouglasCountyCodeRed.com

 **DOUGLAS COUNTY**
COLORADO



1 **PRIORITIZE:** During a disaster, your life and your family should always come first – then your animals and property. Keep a video or photo inventory of your important possessions, including your horse(s) and tack for insurance purposes. Check annually with your insurance provider to make sure you are properly covered and carry an appropriate amount of insurance. Your private insurance carrier can reimburse your loss at a much higher level than government disaster recovery programs.

2 **HAVE A PLAN:** Have an evacuation plan and evacuate your animals when it is safe to do so. If you have numerous animals to evacuate, you may need assistance from others who have trailers. They may respond to help you during a **PRE-EVACUATION NOTIFICATION** status and must provide a specific address within the evacuation perimeter. If a Mandatory Evacuation Notice is implemented, no one will be allowed back in for any reason.

Arrange for a place not located nearby where you can take your horses (and other large animals) – and practice evacuating your animals to that location. County-operated emergency shelters will be designated and activated as soon as possible. Use of these shelters should be a last resort.

3 **PREPARE YOUR HORSE:** A well-mannered horse makes emergency rescue efforts safer and easier for everyone. Consistently work with your horse to walk on a loose lead and to “stand-stay” at all gates and doorways until being led through. Promote tolerance for being

handled and touched all over. **HAVE A TRAILER** and practice loading your horse regularly. Make sure to practice with unfamiliar people loading your horse into an unfamiliar trailer.



ID YOUR HORSE: Have a lead rope and halter for each horse. Include on the halter your name, cell number, and if possible, your address. Dog ID tags can work well for this purpose – attach to the halter. You can also use a horse collar with information written in permanent marker. Another option is to write your cell number directly onto the horse with shoe polish or non-toxic, waterproof spray paint. **Consider microchipping your horse(s).**



PREPARE YOUR FACILITIES: Ensure your horse trailer is in good operating condition – check the floorboards regularly, make sure the tires are properly inflated, the hitch is accessible and lights are operational. Make sure it is clear of clutter. Keep your barn as safe as possible by selecting fire-retardant building materials. Inside remove cobwebs and check electrical wiring annually. Do not overload outlets with numerous electrical cords. Store flammables, feed and bedding away from your stabled horses. For specific recommendations regarding property fire mitigation, refer to the Colorado State Forest Service or firewise.org.



PREPARE AN EMERGENCY INFORMATION PACKET: Using heavy sheet protectors or plastic brochure boxes, organize all necessary paperwork so that it is easily seen and retrieved in the stable. Keep your proof of ownership in a place that is readily accessible to you – store it on your cell phone.



Provide information for each animal including:

- Photographs and a written description
- Copies of registration and/or sale papers
- Brand certificates and/or travel cards
- Name and number for your veterinarian
- List of allergies, medical and behavioral conditions
- Detailed feed and care information (list supplements, medications)
- Your contact information (address and cell number)



PREPARE A DISASTER KIT: Collect the following in a large, waterproof container with a lid that seals (trash cans and plastic bins work well):

- **FIRST AID KIT:** Sharp wire cutters, knife, bandage scissors, elastic wraps, towels, cotton bandages, compresses, adhesive tape, surgical or bacterial soap, saline solution, Epsom salts, fly repellent, antibacterial wound dressing, rectal veterinary thermometer, hoof pick, twitch, and duct tape.
- Lead ropes, halters, shanks
- Leg wraps and horse blankets
- Shovel or manure fork
- Portable radio and flashlight (extra batteries)
- Lime, soap and bleach
- Hay, grain, supplements and medications (prescription copy for refills)
- Water bucket and water or electrolytes if possible, stressed horses may not readily drink unfamiliar water
- Current list of vaccinations (e.g. Coggins)

Have a 10- to 14-day supply of feed, medications, etc. Extensive disaster damage can block roads and prohibit you from accessing your property for extended periods of time.

