

## Evacuation - Large Animals/Horse

Emergency preparedness is important for all animals, but preparedness can be more difficult for large animals (e.g., horses) because of their size and special transportation needs. Evacuation of horses should occur as soon as an evacuation warning is issued. If owners are unprepared or wait until the last minute, they may have to leave their animals behind. The following provides information for pre-planning evacuation with large animals, including horses:

- Contact Los Angeles County Department of Animal Control Equine Response Team (LACDACERT) for evacuation information for large animals. LACDACERT has trained volunteers who are trained in the evacuation and sheltering of horses in wildfire events. LACDACERT has equipment and personnel available for large animal evacuation and billeting. All requests for emergency assistance are channeled through LA County Sheriff's Dispatch (911).
- Even though the County has assistance available, it is strongly encouraged for horse owners to make their own plan for emergency transportation and sheltering for horses. Many designated sheltering sites may become overcrowded or are far from Rolling Hills. Make plans now to house horses with friends, at a commercial stable, or other suitable location out of the danger area. Discuss plans with everyone in the family and keep the contact information and address of emergency animal shelters and driving directions in an emergency kit.
- Make a list of emergency contacts. Keep copies in vehicles or trailer as well as in the house.
- Take photographs and prepare a written description of each horse or other large animal(s). Put one set in a safe place and another set in an emergency kit.
- Have a halter and rope for each horse/large animal. Make sure halters are marked with contact information or write the information on a piece of duct tape and stick it on the halter. Reflective identification collars are available for purchase from Caballeros. If a horse has medical issues or special needs, record this information on a luggage tag and attach it to the halter.
- Microchip horses/large animals. This is an easy, inexpensive way to help identify animals.
- Have a three-day supply of feed and water (per large animal). This is particularly important if plans are to shelter in place but bring feed (and buckets) if evacuated. Make sure to include any medications the large animal(s) may need. Label all equipment.
- Teach your horses how to trailer. Spend time loading and unloading the animals so they are safe and willing to load, consider practicing loading during the day and night. Continue working with the large animals until you are confident that they will load.
- Keep trucks, trailers and vans well maintained and ready to move. Keep gas tanks full, check tire pressure, particularly during Red Flag Warning days.
- Horse owners who keep their horses on their property are encouraged to have an orange reflector on their house sign to indicate that horses are on the property. If you evacuate your animals, remove or cover the reflector.

- Store non-perishable supplies in a portable container such as a clean trashcan, bucket or canvas duffle bag.