



Horse-During

Plan

Disasters can take many forms, from hurricanes, flooding, electrical storms, high wind, extreme hot/cold, blizzards, tornadoes, wildfires, etc. It is important during an emergency that you follow the directions of emergency personnel whether to evacuate yourself and your animals or whether to shelter in place. Sometimes sheltering in place is the only option for our farm animals. Before disaster strikes, decide what the best place to keep your horse. This could mean keeping it in the barn or outside depending upon the type of disaster and the facilities available at your farm.

Based on the emergency, decide if you can safely evacuate your horse.

If not already done and time permits, sign up to receive critical alerts by checking your town or county Office of emergency Management.

Prepare

Horses require extra care during a disaster because they can become easily spooked and become difficult to handle. The reactions of horses can be based on fear and instinct during this time. Normal handling techniques may become difficult.

Gather up you "Go Bag" http://animalemergency.nj.gov/documents/Livestock_Go_Bag.pdf and enough food, hay and water for at least 3 days and place them in your trailer or an easily accessible spot so you can load them quickly.

During a disaster, storm conditions and updates are given by emergency personnel. You can listen to alerts regarding weather and disaster information, along with official instructions and announcements from emergency management by checking alerts on your TV or phone or by listening to a battery powered radio if the electric is out.

Act

1. Listen and follow announcements by emergency personnel to learn when to evacuate and if there are special evacuation routes for livestock.
2. Plan to evacuate your horses early to ensure their safety and ease your stress.
3. Call your destination to make sure the site is still available and not affected by the disaster.
4. If you must leave your horse, leave them in the preselected area appropriate for the disaster type. Leave enough hay for 48 to 72 hours. Leaving large amounts of grain is not recommended for the horse due to digestive upsets and founder. Fill up water container so the

horse has enough water for 48-72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems in case the power is lost.