

## Your Kit Should Include:

- Leads, Halters, Shanks
- 3 Day Supply of Feed/Water/ Medications
- Portable Radio with Extra Batteries
- Buckets for Feed/Water
- Emergency Contact List/ ID Photos
- Flashlights
- Cell Phone with Charger
- First Aid Kit
- Leg Wraps
- Blanket or Sheet
- Hoof Pick
- Tarps
- Sharp Knife
- Shovel
- Water Hose
- Duct Tape
- Wire Cutters



**ERT** is a team of specially trained volunteers that provide emergency evacuation and temporary sheltering for horses and livestock in need of evacuation and care. Situations requiring ERT include wildfires; mudslides or other natural disasters; manmade disasters; and the rescue of large numbers of animals from inhumane conditions. ERT team volunteers receive specialized training by Department authorized instructors regarding safe and humane animal handling, trailer loading and transportation, operating emergency animal shelter facilities and fire behavior and safety. ERT volunteers also educate the public regarding the importance of preparing for emergencies.

For more information email:

**[ERT@animalcare.lacounty.gov](mailto:ERT@animalcare.lacounty.gov)**

Or visit our website at:

**<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>**

## Take The Time to Develop an Emergency Plan TODAY!

It is a well known fact that horse owners are much more likely to evacuate early when they have:

- 1) An Emergency Plan
- 2) Available supplies

## Are You and Your Horses Prepared for an Emergency Event?



# Are You and Your Horses Prepared for an Emergency Event?

Living and owning horses in Southern California has its special challenges, particularly where emergency preparedness is concerned. It is every horse owner's responsibility to have an emergency plan in place. This includes making arrangements to evacuate, or preparing an area where horses can remain safe during an emergency event.

Animal control agencies and volunteers are usually available to help evacuate horses during an emergency event, but when you consider the realities of navigating narrow roads to evacuate large number of horses in front of a fast moving fire (or other emergency event) no one can guarantee that they will be able to get into your property to evacuate your horses. **You** are the only one that can plan to keep your horses safe, either by early evacuation or ensuring they can be safely sheltered in place.

## **EVACUATE EARLY!**

**If you do plan to evacuate as part of your emergency plan, EVACUATE EARLY!** Go as soon as you hear an Evacuation Warning -- do not wait for an Evacuation Order. When the Fire Department issues an Evacuation Warning it means that area is under threat. It is vital for horses to be evacuated early from threatened areas so horse trailers do not interfere with emergency response vehicles. Being under an Evacuation Order means your horses must go NOW, sometimes before you see flames near your area. Waiting until you get the Evacuation Order is often too late, as the roads can become too crowded to safely move a horse trailer out of harm's way.



**If your horse is not trained to load into a trailer, or will not load easily or safely, you must work in advance to make your horse's area**

**as safe as possible to shelter in place.** It will not be useful to call someone to help evacuate your horse if it cannot be loaded into a trailer. You can check with the Fire Department on the clearance regulations for sheltering in place.

**Better Yet – TRAIN YOUR HORSES TO TRAILER, and have a working trailer available during fire season!**

**Where will you take your horses if an evacuation is necessary?** Make plans with a friend or facility outside of the danger area, where you can take your animals if you choose to evacuate. Emergency sheltering sites can fill up and many have restrictions on the horses they can accept. Have an alternate plan for your horse and livestock.

If your horses are being housed at a **Boarding Stable** in a danger area, talk with the Stable Manager about their Emergency Plan. Many stables have safe areas where the horses can be sheltered in place. If your stable is planning to evacuate during an emergency, find out now how this is to be done and where the horses are to be taken.

## **DO NOT TURN YOUR HORSES LOOSE!!**

Although your instinct may be to let your animals loose in the event of a wildland fire, your animals are safer in their corrals. In the 1993 Old Topanga Fire the only horse fatality was a horse that was let loose.

**Loose horses can pose a life threatening danger to themselves, the public and to emergency responders.**

**10 things you can do NOW to prepare your horses for an emergency event:**

**1. Plan NOW for Emergency Sheltering For Your Horses.** As well as becoming overcrowded, many designated sheltering sites will not accept stallions, mares with foals, horses who will not tie or horses with other special needs or situations. Make plans **now** to house your horses with friends, at a commercial stable or other suitable sites out of the danger area. Discuss your plans with everyone in your family and keep the address and driving directions in your emergency kit.

**2. Become Involved With (or Start) Your Own Neighborhood Network.** During a disaster we will all need to help each other. Neighbors can work together to help the horse owners on their street who do not have a horse trailer.

**3. Make A List of Emergency Contacts.** Include your local emergency response sheltering site and veterinary numbers as well as family contact information. Keep this information with you, on your smart devices.

**4. Take Photographs and Prepare a Written Description Of Each Horse.** Put one set in a safe place and another set in your emergency kit.

**5. Have a Halter and Rope Readily Available for Each Horse.** Make sure halters are marked/engraved with your contact information. Keep duct tape available. You can write the information on a piece of duct tape and stick it on the halter. Include your name, address and home phone, along with an alternate contact number. If your horse has medical issues or special needs, record this information on a luggage tag and attach it to the halter.

**6. Microchip Your Horses.** This is an easy, inexpensive way to help identify all of your animals.

**7. Have a Minimal Three Day Supply of Feed and Water (Per Horse).** This is particularly important if you plan to shelter in place, but you should also bring feed (and buckets!) if you evacuate. Make sure to include any medications your horse may need. Label ALL of your equipment.

**8. Teach Your Horses How to Trailer.** Spend time loading and unloading your horses so they are safe and willing to load.

**9. Keep Trucks, Trailers and Vans Well-Maintained and Ready to Move.** Keep your gas tank full, particularly during Red Flag Warning days. **Continue** working with your horses until you are confident they will load.

**10. Make a Disaster Preparedness Kit.** Store non-perishable supplies in a portable container such as a clean trash can, bucket or canvas duffle bag.