



Evacuation Tips for Emergency Personnel

Number one message: Start early, don't get trapped

If in doubt, take them out.

What you may find, and suggestions as to what to do:

Horses locked in

Bolt cutters, wire cutters, hammers, gloves.

Horses not trained to load

- Do what you know. Bring ropes, whips, flags, extra people.
- Do not tranquilize unless you are qualified.
- If you can't get them in a reasonable length of time, leave them. It has to be like triage. Get the ones you can.
- Send stock trailers if possible for horses not trained to load, then load through a gate from a pen, stall, panels, or in a corner.

Horses missing

- Make a note of time, place, anything else pertinent and keep moving.

People being indecisive about going

- Hugs, reassurance, leave your phone number and get the horses out. "Better safe than sorry"
- Discuss danger/consequences of road closures, trees across roads.

No halters/leads, no extra ropes

- Bring as many as you can, different sizes.

Cell phones, land lines overloaded

- Try to stay off phones. Get all info first call. Write everything down.
- Make a whole pan, share all contact info when you first talk to them.

Road Closures

- Take maps even if you know the area. It's going to look very different, and usual routes may not be available.
- DON'T go in if you aren't sure you can get out. Fire engines won't even do that.

Smoke

- Its' probably worse than you think. Take particle masks, inhalers if you've ever used one, and just don't go if you have asthma or any other breathing problems.

Human needs

- Take LOTS of water, snacks, toilet paper, first aid supplies, flashlights, good boots and gloves, extra glasses, fully fueled vehicles. You may need to be out there a lot longer than anticipated. Emergency mode makes us ignore our own needs, but this could go on for many days. We need to take care of ourselves to be able to be of service
- Don't leave to haul horses unless you know exactly where you are going. TAKE MAPS.
- Tell "looky loos" to go home.
- Drive slowly and carefully no matter what is going on.

Safety considerations

- Don't go alone
- Take flashlights, sharp knife, twitch, animal first aid supplies, pillow cases or burlap bags for small animals, extra collars and leashes for dogs, animal marking crayons, Polaroid or disposable camera, notebook and pens, MAPS.

Identification, record keeping

- There may be animals that end up in big groups, or to places with many, even hundreds of animals. Don't think you'll recognize them for sure. They should be marked with livestock crayon, like for endurance rides, available at many feed stores.
- You can attach tags to halters (halters shouldn't be left on if at all possible), or braid tags into forelocks, top of mane, or top part of tail.
- Spray paint can be used in an emergency, maybe a phone number.
- Keep a notebook with where the animal came from, a thorough description (look under lips and manes for tattoos and freeze brands), any notations about injuries, or special care needs, and where the animals went.
- Take Polaroid or disposable camera pictures from the front and both sides if possible.

Trailers

- Know the height, width and number of dividers for your trailer. Most barns will prefer trailers with dividers.
- If you only have a stock trailer, you may be better off hauling hay for evacuation