



This website is dedicated to all the individuals and families who suffered the loss of loved ones, property and animals to the wildfires that engulfed Bastrop and other counties in the Central Texas area over the Labor Day weekend of 2011 and to all the volunteers who came to their aid.

EQUINE NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY INFORMATION

PLANNING AND PREPARATION FOR WILDFIRES

- Remove dead wood, dead brush on your property; keep trees pruned, remove tallgrass/weeds around barn structures, trailers and equipment
- Store hay, shavings away from the stable as well as gasoline & other flammable materials
- Keep hoses attached to faucets at all times
- Have plenty of leather halters, lead ropes at hand--be aware fire melts nylon halters
- Keep trailers maintained & ready to use
- Keep a fire extinguisher and field sprayer nearby in case a fire breaks out; maintain equipment
- Have a Fire Safety & Evacuation Plan posted in your barn, review it with your helpers & boarders
- Condition your horses to seeing you with a bandana or goggles on your face
- Take time to train all your horses to trailer load
- Post phone numbers of boarders
- Post phone numbers of nearby veterinary hospitals, public large animal facilities & rescue groups to call about available space for your horses
- Keep copies of current Coggins as rescue shelters may ask for one
- Have 2 cell phone chargers: for your barn/car



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WHAT TO DO IF YOU CAN'T EVACUATE DURING A WILDFIRE

- Stock water: fill all available buckets, troughs, & containers with water to accommodate animals for 5-7 days
- Stock feed to last for 5-7 days
- CLOSE barn/stall doors to prevent scared horses from running back inside and becoming trapped; open all gates to give horses freedom to run from fires
- Remove horses from barns, put them in paddocks or under metal-constructed cover
- Have horse identification information should you need to reclaim your horses from animal control
- Mark your horses with your name, contact information; use duct tape & indelible markers & place the tape on your horses' neck or croup; or mark the information on your horses' hooves
- Mark your property with placards placed on fence gates informing firefighters that animals are being sheltered on your property
- Use gloves to protect your hands from burns
- Use a cotton bandana or goggles to protect your eyes from smoke & burning embers
- Use a trash barrel with a lid-- fill it with a water bucket, lead rope, halter, crop, sheet or blanket, wraps, equine first aid items & other items you feel are essential to care for your horse(s)
- Have a battery or solar powered radio to monitor news reports & emergency evacuation broadcasts
- Keep your cell phone nearby & keep a charger in the car
- Gather hand tools such as metal shovels & rakes to extinguish cinders that might fall onto your property



EQUINE NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY INFORMATION

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND PREPARATION DURING WILDFIRES

1. "Fire Safety for Horse Owners,"
Plumas County Fire Safe Council
<http://plumasfiresafe.org/equine.htm>
2. "Help Your Horse Survive A Disaster,"
By Sally Silverman
http://www.equisearch.com/farm_ranch/management/disaster121403/
3. "Create a Horse Disaster Plan," by Elaine Pascoe, **Practical Horseman**, Sept. 2011:
http://www.equisearch.com/horses_care/create-a-horse-disaster-plan/
4. "Horse Owners: Prepare for Disaster: 15 tips,"
EQUISEARCH, Sept. 2011:
http://www.equisearch.com/farm_ranch/barns/eqdisaster2562/
5. "Tips on Evacuating Ranch Animals From Fire Areas," by Rebecca Highlander, **Horse Talk**.
<http://www.bayequest.info/horsetalk/ranchfire.htm>
6. "Wildfires: When the Evacuation of Your Equines is NOT an Option, by Pat Raia : published September 8, 2011, website: **Wild Horse Freedom Federation**. <http://rtfitch.wordpress.com/tag/magnolia-texas/>
also published Tuesday, Sept. 13 in
7. **the Horse Journal**
<http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=18787>



EQUINE NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY INFORMATION

WHERE TO GET HELP

RESCUE, EVACUATION AID, HOUSING

Bluebonnet Equine Rescue

Assists with horse trailering, emergency shelter & placement:

<http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/wildfirerecovery.htm>

HORSE GAZETTE: EMERGENCY LAYUP DIRECTORY: lists town/cities in Texas with available facilities for horses/domestic pets in need of shelter and housing for families:

<http://www.horsegazette.com/emergency.htm>

BASTROP CO FIRE LARGE ANIMAL INFO facebook page contains offers of transport assistance, hay/feed supplies, listings of locations willing to accommodate horses displaced by the fires: <https://www.facebook.com/firelargeanimals>

TEXAS LOST PINES RIDING CLUB Assists with rescue and injured horses: <http://www.tlprc.org/>

TX: AVAILABLE Shelter/ Hookups List facebook postings from individuals offering shelter/ hookups:

<https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=214513841940876&ref=nf>

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEMS

Register for cell phone alerts:

<http://wireless.capcog.org/ENS/Intro.aspx>
<http://wireless.capcog.org/ENS/PhoneMap.aspx?NewUser>

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

Austin Disaster Relief Fund:

<http://www.austindisasterreliefnetwork.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=75376&columnid=6357>

Webpages posted September 2011