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Preparing Your Equine Facility for Disaster or Emergency

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The primary concern for most horse owners in the event of an emergency/disaster is knowing the contact information for neighbors and their veterinarian. These are extremely important, but may not be so helpful in the event of a widespread emergency.

The most common disasters in this region are fire (wild or barn), flood, and severe snow. Other possibilities are tornado and more rarely earthquake. The traditional resources available to the horse owner may not be accessible. It will become important to have a supply kit and community contact tree at your disposal. You will need plans to relocate your animals and a means to consistently identify them as yours if they will need to be commingled with others. The following is a simple list of items that has been compiled by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and should be included into a kit that can be stored separately and easily accessed:

Emergency Supplies

- Tarpaulins
- Water buckets
- Plastic trash can with lid
- Radio and flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Knife, scissors and pliers
- Tranquilizers
- Anti-inflammatories
- Feed and hay (at least 3 days' worth)
- Gauze and other bandages
- Leg wraps
- Eye ointments
- Fire-resistant blankets

- Fire-resistant nylon leads and halters
- Duct tape
- Livestock markers
- Antibiotics and disinfectants
- Bleach and lime

There are probably other items to be included, but these are a good start and should help to ease the effects of a disaster and allow you to be more self-contained.