

# Equine Emergency Preparedness

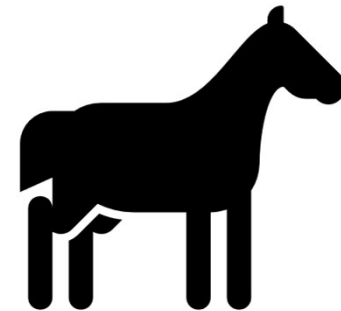
For BCHW

Judy Sarles

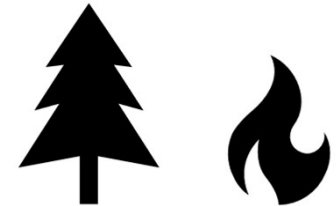
September 18, 2024

# Agenda

- What is an “Emergency”?
- Deciding when to go
- Planning/what to take
- Where to go
- Leaving your equine behind
- Resources



# What is an Emergency?



## Emergency Types:

- Fire
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Extreme weather (hot or cold)
- Extended power outage
- Flood
- Landslide/Mudflow
- Wind Storm

## Emergency Size:

- Your house
- Your neighborhood (localized)
- Within less than 5 miles
- Regional
- Broad

Is “Shelter in place” a better option  
(e.g. Tsunami for residents south of 101  
near Sequim)

# Deciding When to Go



## Evacuation Levels

- READY – LEVEL 1
- SET – LEVEL 2
- GO – LEVEL 3

IT IS STRONGLY  
RECOMMENDED FOR PEOPLE  
EVACUATING EQUINE/LARGE  
STOCK TO EVACUATE AT  
LEVEL 1 IF POSSIBLE

## Considerations:

- Do you need help?
- Have you prepared in advance?
- Are you home?
- Are your equine “manageable”?
- Do you know where you are going?
- Road Conditions
  - Where you are
  - Where you plan to go
- No official notice

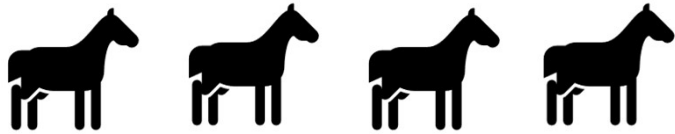
**IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG, EMS AND FIRE MAY TELL YOU TO LEAVE YOUR STOCK BEHIND**

## Planning Ahead of Time

- Equine Identification
  - On the animal (**permanent AND visible**)
  - With you (picture of pet and you, proof of ownership, latest medical info/Coggins)
- Document medications
- “Vet” Bag
- Document their “food”
  - Hay/Pellets/Supplements
- Get electrolytes
- Post information for each Equine in barn in case someone else is evacuating
- Have halters easily accessible at all times



**ASSUME EVACUATION WILL BE A HIGH STRESS SITUATION FOR YOUR EQUINES**



## Ready Your Equine

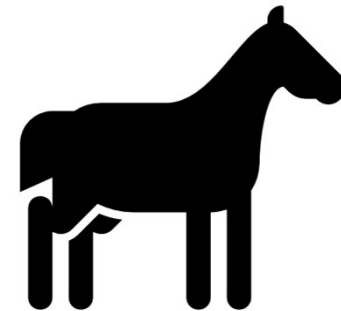
- Ensure horses can be haltered and are accustomed to wearing a halter
- Practice loading into trailer (it's easier in calm conditions – this must be “autopilot” to ensure safety)
- Train horses to be well socialized to strangers
- Test your trailer and have transport arranged for all equine (don't expect to make multiple trips)
- Identify a temporary caregiver and see if you can practice with your horse to that location
- Collaborate with nearby horse owners/neighbors in case you are not home and become familiar with their horses and them to your horses

**ASSUME EVACUATION WILL BE A HIGH STRESS SITUATION FOR YOUR EQUINES**

# Where to go

- Pre-planned destination
- A friend/stable outside of the evacuation zone
- Designated animal evacuation site
- If regional event, consider moving further out to prevent evacuating multiple times

**ANY PUBLIC EVACUATION SITE MAY EXPOSE  
YOUR HORSE TO ILLNESS AND MOST LIKELY  
WILL NOT BE FED AS AT HOME**



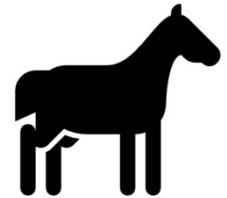
# Leaving Equine Behind

## It happens

- If you are not home
- Your horse cannot load or is not healthy enough for trailering/high stress experience
- Not enough trailer space
- Not enough time

## What to do

- Fill all water troughs and make water hoses accessible
- CLOSE THE BARN AND SMALL RUNS (Horses will return where they feel safe)
- OPEN ALL GATES
- Move all outdoor furniture/burnable items into house or barn to minimize fuel
- Leave keys in tractor/heavy equipment





# Resources

[Emergency Management | Clallam County, WA \(clallamcountywa.gov\)](#)

[Alerts and Incidents | Clallam County, WA \(clallamcountywa.gov\)](#)

[Preparedness Guide \(wa.gov\)](#)

[Equine disaster preparedness | The Humane Society of the United States](#)