

7 POINT Horse Emergency Plan

How will you keep your horses safe?

Safety around paddocks and stables - Natural disasters - Animal & plant diseases – Transport

In a major emergency, there may be nobody to help you, no power, no communications, no emergency services, no veterinarian, no daylight. What is your plan?

1



CHECK OVER YOUR PROPERTY FOR RISKS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP YOUR HORSES STAY SAFER

- Keep yourself up to date with how different risks can affect your horses.
- Preparing your property and horses to reduce risks is an ongoing year-round activity.
- I know and test multiple access and egress points from the property, and for horses which stay, organise internal gates to give the horses room to move.
- For biosecurity, an isolation area is available.
- Site plans displayed, including turn off for gas, mains, pump locations, chemical storage.
- Fire hoses reach around buildings, pumps are tested, water supplies accessible.
- Remember routine checks for electrical & gas safety, rodent damage.

3

IDENTIFICATION



- All horses have permanent identification. If microchipped, details are up to date on the relevant database. ID includes recent photographs, written description.
- Ahead of major emergencies, add temporary ID e.g. mane tags, stock marker to write mobile number on horse.
- I have proof of evidence for horse ownership.
- My property is clearly identified from the road, or agistment paddock has ID info.
- The property my horse lives on has a Property Identification Code (PIC). PIC numbers are used in all types of emergency responses.
- A front gate sign board notifies emergency agencies about animals left behind.
- A sign board may also notify unauthorized community volunteers that you wish to keep animals in situ, and transporting off-site without permission is theft.
- Emergency contact list is included in plans, set up on text group, written phone tree, and we keep in touch through local neighbourhood social media groups.
- I have downloaded Apps to help keep up to date with emergency messaging, also to help emergency services find my location.

5



TRANSPORT AND HORSE TRAINING

- Horse transport is registered, road worthy and safe for horses e.g. floors.
- The emergency plan identifies horses to evacuate by transport, or horses or stay.
- My horse loads into different transport types, on any day, in any weather, at night, or led by different people.
- If my horse is involved in a road crash, including if the transport tips over, I am aware of ways to keep people safe and the horse calm until help arrives.
- My horse transport vehicle safety travel card contains info about my horses and emergency contacts.

2



FLEXIBLE PLANS FOR STAYING, FOR EVACUATION AND MANAGING QUARANTINE

- My written plans are displayed in the home, stable yards, in floats and shared with neighbours. Digital copies are shared.
- I've talked about, practiced and revised plans, at least once a year.
- There are pre-arranged multiple properties outside of my geographic area to relocate horses to short term agistment e.g. post fire or flood until fences rebuilt.
- I know what part of my plans can be activated early e.g. the night before a high fire risk day, or when a new horse is to arrive on the property.
- I have discussed with family various recovery strategies e.g. post flood decontamination, trained and well socialised horses who can adapt to new sites.

4



GRAB AND GO KIT

- I have designed an emergency kit which is pre-packed year-around e.g. in a wheelie bin and backpack. Kit includes natural fibre rug/blankets, first aid, torches, battery powered radio, external mobile battery, horse ID, medical needs & insurance info, fence cutting tools, knife, baling twine, spare halters, long strong lead ropes, water containers, portable yarding, feed supplies for at least 96 hrs.
- My grab and go kit is located conveniently in the stable yard.
- My work boots and gloves, strong cotton clothing, scarf, hi-viz vest and protective glasses are positioned ready to quickly put on.

6

TRAINED PEOPLE



- I can observe behaviour cues from horses, and know their social requirements.
- I am able to handle horses safely, including how to move around a recumbent horse.
- I am aware of how my horse, when adrenalized, may act differently.
- I can apply a range of horse restraint and calming options.
- I have strategies for the containment of loose horses.
- I am aware of large animal rescue techniques, and how to call for help
- I am confident to apply first aid to my horse.
- I am confident to observe my horse after the disaster, with many injuries, burns or respiratory issues not becoming evident for several days.

7

HELPING OTHER HORSE OWNERS



- I help build stronger communities by connecting with like-minded people to share information, knowledge and skills.
- Practice of plans and feedback is regularly undertaken amongst family, agistees, club members and horse event organisers.
- Local emergency services are advised about gatherings of horses and people.
- After a disaster, accident or emergency, I keep in touch with neighbours and networks knowing that psychological first aid is an important factor for a successful recovery and, healthy people can better help horses too.



IN THE CASE OF
EMERGENCY
dial 000

VETERINARIAN CONTACT



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Disclaimer: Views and findings associated with this initiative/project are expressed independently and do not necessarily represent the views of State and Commonwealth funding bodies.

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Seek independent advice for your own situation.