

Emergency Plan

Whatever the emergency—fire, tornado, hurricane or earthquake—it's important to be prepared.

Approximately 80 percent of the horses found after Hurricane Andrew, which hit Florida in 1992, did not have proper identification. Whatever the emergency—fire, tornado, hurricane or earthquake—here are a few safety tips to follow:

Have your horse's name, your name, telephone number and address on a luggage tag attached to a leather halter; have a second luggage tag ready, and braid it into your horse's tail when a natural disaster is on the way; write any special instructions or medications on an index card, place it in a sealed baggie and tape it around your horse's halter; purchase fetlock ID bands for both front feet; shave your phone number into your horse's hair or write it on with a product that will not wash off in water.

Make sure your horse is up-to-date on his vaccinations and Coggins test; keep this information and pictures of your horse from the front, back and sides (with a family member in the photo) along with any other information regarding permanent identification (such as scars, tattoos or microchip) in a plastic sealed baggie to take with you in case of an evacuation; also make sure your horse will load into a trailer quickly and easily.

Have an evacuation plan in place for whatever type of emergency you may encounter; have two weeks of feed safely stored; if it's safest to leave your horse, have the best area identified and leave plenty of water.