



ONE HOUR TO...

# An emergency evacuation kit

WITH JUST A FEW MINUTES OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION, YOU CAN MAKE SURE YOU'RE EQUIPPED TO MOVE YOUR HORSES TO SAFETY IN AN EMERGENCY.

By Christine Barakat

**T**ime is of the essence when you're evacuating your horses in the face of a natural disaster or another emergency. If a fire, flood or hurricane threatens, you won't have time to gather and organize all the equipment necessary for passage to safety. Add in a high level of anxiety—among both animals and people—and an emergency evacuation can become a nightmare. By planning ahead, however, you can ensure that you won't needlessly waste time when dealing with an emergency.

To help you prepare, we've canvassed various state and federal emergency management programs and compiled a list of suggestions for an equine emergency evacuation kit. Gather the items appropriate for your situation and place them in a single container that you can grab easily: A large plastic trash can, for instance, has plenty of storage space and can also be used to hold water during an actual evacuation.

When you're finished, store the kit in an out-of-the-way place that will be easy to access in an emergency. Then try to leave it largely untouched—if you "raid" it for items for routine use, you'll risk coming up short in an actual emergency. In addition, it's wise to revisit your kit every six months or so to replenish perishables, update paperwork and make sure batteries are charged.



DUSTY PERIN (TRUCK); U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (FIRE); NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (TORNADO)



## Documentation

Place the following items in a folder, then seal it in a plastic zip-lock bag.

- veterinary contact information
- insurance contact information
- proof of negative Coggins tests for each animal
- documents that could help prove ownership, such as microchip information or brand registration
- current photographs of each horse
- detailed instructions for anyone who may need to care for your horses, including medication needs and important veterinary history
- map of the local area with any emergency facilities highlighted



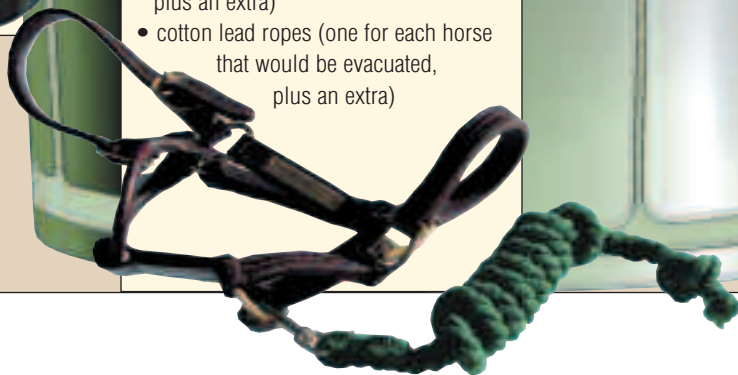
## Feed and water

- hay nets that can be filled prior to evacuation
- enough feed for three to seven days, stored in original bags that have been placed in large, plastic garbage bags
- water buckets
- feed tubs or nose bags
- a large plastic trash can with lid for storing water (fill it up before you evacuate)



## Tack

- leather or breakaway halters (one for each horse that would be evacuated, plus an extra)
- cotton lead ropes (one for each horse that would be evacuated, plus an extra)



# EMERGENCY EVACUATION KIT

## ▶ First aid/health care

These items are best stored in separate plastic, watertight containers.

- an equine first-aid kit, including elastic bandages, gauze squares, Betadine, scissors, wound salve or spray, thermometer and eyewash
- leg wraps and bandages
- fly spray
- medications, along with dosing information that identifies recipients by name, color and markings
- hoof pick, rasp and nippers for removing shoes
- twitch



## ▶ Tools

- flashlight
- battery-operated radio
- wire cutters
- blankets
- trash bags
- pocketknife or "all-in-one" tool
- duct tape
- twine
- heavy gloves
- cattle/animal marking crayon (available through livestock supply catalogs)



Along with preparing an emergency evacuation kit, it is a very good idea to make sure every horse in your care will load easily. Do some quick trial runs, and school those horses who tend to be hesitant or uncooperative in loading. The last thing you'll need as danger approaches is a horse who refuses to get on a trailer.

