

IDENTIFICATION

Horses sometimes get lost during storms. Before you leave, make sure you identify every horse on your property. Secure an ID tag in his mane, use livestock crayon to write your phone number on his body, or attach a neck band with your cell phone number. A luggage tag can be attached to a halter.

Most veterinarians agree that microchipping is the ideal identification for horses. If your horse has a microchip, tattoo or freeze brand, take the paperwork with you. You also need photographs of each horse in case you have to prove ownership. (Just how many bay mares are there? Or black geldings? A lost horse with no ID is another disaster!)

Spray paint your cell phone number, or another contact number, on the side of your barn. Add HORSES INSIDE or HORSES IN PASTURE so emergency personnel will know to check on them. Be sure someone in the area knows where you will be. Set up a buddy system so that whoever comes home first can check on their neighbors' animals.

RETURNING HOME

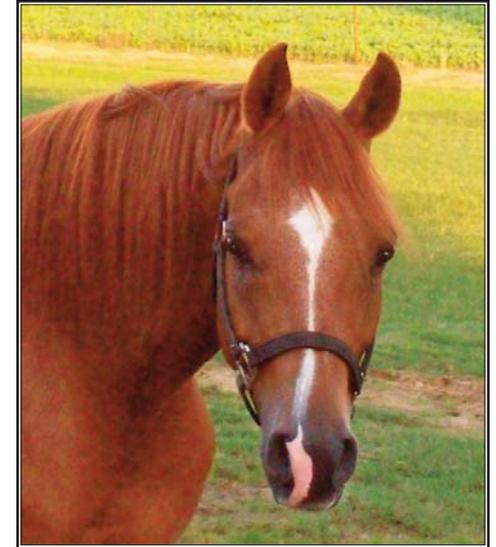
First, check your fences, buildings, electrical and gas hookups, and water supplies. Be cautious of downed power lines. You may need to clear your pasture of debris or do some repair work on fences before putting your horses away. Inspect hay and feed that was left behind, in case it got wet. Run fresh water.

On the other hand, if you find a strange loose horse, approach it carefully. It may be frightened. Separate it from your horses, but keep it close enough to remain calm. If the horse has an ID tag, call its owners. If not, call local authorities.

Lost Horse Hotline

Some communities might want to set up a Lost Horse Hotline, with a specific place for found horses to be taken. Check with emergency management personnel in your county to see if such a plan is feasible. Leave your name and number with them if you are willing to assist.

South Carolina DISASTER PLAN *for* HORSES



SOUTH CAROLINA
Department of Agriculture

and

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LIVESTOCK POULTRY HEALTH

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HAVE A PLAN FOR YOUR HORSES BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES!

Natural disasters like hurricanes and floods usually don't give us much time to act. That's why it is vital to plan ahead. Being prepared can save you and your animals a great deal of stress. Develop a plan and stick with it.

Take Them or Leave Them?
In the event of an evacuation, the first thing to decide is whether to leave your horses where they are or to move them.

LEAVING HORSES

If you choose to leave your horses at home, consider where they'll be safer.

Barn or pasture?

BARN

If your barn is sturdy, well built and on high ground, it may be all right to leave your horses inside. However, they will need enough hay and water for several days, in case you cannot return immediately.

Beware: If the power is off, automatic waterers will not work.

Since the average horse drinks 15 to 20 gallons of water a day, one bucket is not enough. Consider using a large plastic trash can, secured so it cannot be overturned, if you leave your horse in his stall.

PASTURE

Large pastures are often the best place for horses. Remember, horses have lived outside for thousands of years, and their instinct will

go a long way toward keeping them out of trouble.

If the barn is old or not well constructed, leave your horses in the pasture, or secure stall doors open so they can get into a fenced area.

Most injuries during high winds come from flying debris, such as tin from the barn roof. Do not leave horses in small paddocks where they cannot escape wind-driven debris, overhead power lines, or flooding.

The leading causes of death during hurricanes are from collapsed barns, dehydration, electrocution, and accidents from fencing failure.

EVACUATION

MOVE 'EM OUT!

Make the decision early! If you decide to move your horses, you should know where you're going. Make arrangements with friends or boarding facilities well in advance. Call before you leave to make sure they can still accommodate you. Then get on the road as soon as you can. Trailers and high winds are not a good combination!

Also, by leaving before a mandatory evacuation order goes into effect, you may avoid heavy traffic.

- **Make sure your horses will load into a trailer**
- **Leave early and know your route**
- **If you don't own a trailer, make arrangements for transportation well ahead of time**

SUPPLIES

Take water, hay, and enough feed for several days. Even when the storm is over, downed trees and power lines could keep you from returning home right away. Make sure your gas tank is full.

Put together an emergency kit for the road, since you may be stranded in a strange place.

Keep these handy for quick transport:

- **Extra halters and lead ropes**
- **Buckets; flashlight**
- **First aid supplies; disinfectant**
- **Your horses' health records, papers and current Coggins tests**
- **A week's supply of needed medication**
- **Leg wraps; foot bandages**

If you have not made arrangements for stabling, check the following website for a list of emergency shelters for your horse. Call ahead to make sure they have room and to note any special requirements.

<http://agriculture.sc.gov/equineevacuationsites>

Follow the SC DOT evacuation routes as closely as possible to your destination.

COASTAL EVACUATION ROUTES

- 1. The northern coastal areas (Myrtle Beach to Georgetown) evacuate toward the Florence/Camden area;**
- 2. The central coast (Charleston area) will head towards Columbia;**
- 3. The southern portion of the state will go toward Aiken/Augusta**

www.sctrffic.org