

Flood and your Horse

If you plan to evacuate your horse

If at all possible, make plans well in advance of the emergency. Leave early in a voluntary evacuation period. If you wait too late, you may be stuck in traffic or not allowed on the road. If you must make a last-minute search for shelter/stabling, consider some of the following as you make calls and prepare to move out:

- Have proof of ownership and individual identification of your horse.
- Be sure to describe your horse (stallion, mare, young unbroken, mare with foal) in terms that make special needs clear.
- Discuss fencing and stabling type—what is your horse used to living in and will he be safe in different/unusual type facility.
- If pasture/paddock with other horses, realize additional risk of injury in turning horses in with new friends.
- Know what vaccines/worming your horse has received in relation to the general status of horses being accepted at the stable. There is always some risk in commingling horses. Have your horse up to date on vaccination to help protect in case of exposure to diseases.

Couldn't get them out?

Disease Control and Sanitation

If your paddocks or buildings have been flooded, take special precautions against flood-related accidents or diseases. Give animals extra care, particularly if they have been stranded by floodwater, and have been off regular feeding schedules. Keep fields clear of harmful debris, and clean buildings as soon as possible. In addition, watch for signs of flood-related diseases, such as lameness, fever, difficulty breathing, muscle contractions or swelling of shoulder, chest, back, neck or throat. Contact a veterinarian if you spot trouble.

Disease Control

Following a flood there may be danger of infectious diseases in livestock, but unless serious outbreaks of infection have occurred recently, the situation should not be alarming.

Observe these precautions:

Where large numbers of animals are assembled, watch for any indication of infectious diseases such as pneumonia, foot rot or leptospirosis. Promptly

report any sign of disease to a local, state or federal veterinarian.

Feed and Water

Provide clean, uncontaminated water.

Inspect feeds - do not feed flood damaged or mouldy hay. Do not use any feed that may have been contaminated by chemicals or pesticides.

Pasture Land

Standing water may have ruined some pastures. Lack of adequate forage could force animals to eat poisonous plants. Before restocking flooded pastures, remove debris, especially along fence lines and in corners. Livestock could be injured from pieces of barbed wire, sharp metal and trash.

Sanitation

- Clean out stable and sheds.
- Spray buildings with a good disinfectant before animals occupy them again.
- Air buildings thoroughly to dry them out.
- Remove debris.
- Scrub and disinfect walls, ceilings, floors and other equipment.

Disposing of Animal Carcasses Prompt and sanitary disposal of animal carcasses is necessary to protect the living animals in an area from disease.

- Search all pastures for dead animals as soon as possible.
- Burn or bury carcasses.
- Be aware and choose a site where drainage will not reach water supplies.
- Bury the carcasses at least three to four feet deep so predatory animals won't be able to reach them.

