

# BC SPCA Disaster Preparedness Checklist: Horses

## Are you prepared if an emergency strikes?

### BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

- Know the types of emergencies that can occur in your area
  - Have a written plan for each
  - Ensure everyone involved is knowledgeable of the plans, and practice them
  - If you board your horse(s), talk to the property owner about their emergency plans
- Map the location of fields and buildings, and how many horses are in each
  - Identify the best locations on your property for your horse(s) during each type of emergency
- Determine an evacuation site
  - Visit in advance to ensure it's suitable and will have room for your horse(s)
  - Determine if the location will provide supplies or if you need to bring your own
  - Determine evacuation routes and practice driving them with your horse(s)
- Keep vehicles and trailers in good working condition and insured
  - Keep gas tanks full and spare gas on hand
  - Know how many trips will be required to evacuate all your horses
  - Make arrangements if you are unable to haul your horse(s)
- Make sure your horse(s) will load quickly and easily
  - Practice regularly, during the day and at night, and in different weather conditions
- Around the barn
  - Know the location of all shut off valves and how to operate them
  - Make sure all doors/gates work properly and can open/close in an emergency situation
  - Post emergency contact numbers, plans and maps in each barn
- Permanently identify your horse(s) (e.g. microchip, tattoo)
- Develop an order of evacuation list



### IMPORTANT RECORDS

*Have 3 copies of each of the following (one kept in a waterproof bag in the barn, one that you keep with you, and one located offsite):*

- Photos of each horse
  - Left and right sides, face, and legs
  - Yourself with each horse
- Waterproof identification tag with your name, address, phone number and horse's information
  - Name, breed, sex, age, colour, horse ID (tattoo, microchip), horse behaviour
  - To be braided into the mane and tail during an emergency
- Proof of ownership paperwork
  - Certificate of adoption, registration papers, bill of sale, record of microchip
- Insurance papers
- Veterinary records with veterinarian's name and phone number
- Feed and medication instructions
- Emergency contacts
- Map from home property to evacuation site

## ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES DURING AN EMERGENCY

Ensure all the items on this list are always available at the barn (whether sheltering in place or at evacuation barn)

- Important records (see previous page)
- Water purification kit and bleach
- Feed and water buckets
- Halter and lead rope for each horse
  - Breakaway halter
  - Leather halter and cotton lead rope for fire emergencies
- Wheelbarrow/bucket, muck fork, shovel, broom
- Bedding
- Horse blankets (as appropriate)
- Fly spray/fly masks (as appropriate)
- Hay nets
- Basic grooming supplies
- Equine first aid kit, including cotton towels
- Backup generator and enough fuel to operate it for a few days
- Flashlight, portable radio with extra batteries, cell phone and charger
- Toolbox with wire cutters
- Chainsaw and fencing materials

- Tarps, rope, and webbing
- Sand bags (for flooding)
- Working fire extinguisher

## FEEDING YOUR HORSE(S) IN AN EMERGENCY

Ensure the following supplies are ready at all times.

### Sheltering in place

- Two-week supply of feed, hay, supplements, and medications in airtight, waterproof containers (rotated often)
- Three to seven-day supply of water stored in closed, portable containers (rotated often)

### Evacuation

- Minimum three-day supply of feed, hay, supplements, and medications in airtight, waterproof containers (rotated often)
- Minimum three-day supply of water stored in closed, portable containers (rotated often)

