

**PART THREE:  
PLEASANT VALLEY PET CLINIC  
SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR HORSES**

Each year, fire season seems to begin earlier and earlier in the year. Owners of horses and other livestock need to pay special attention to any alert of impending disaster. Having an emergency plan, available supplies at the ready (including truck and trailer) and a pre-arranged destination will help you and your animals survive safely. Here are some recommendations and basic information from Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic to assist you in your disaster preparedness and recovery.

**Be proactive:**

Develop a buddy system. Create a phone tree of friends, neighbors, or relatives who can help with care and/or evacuation of your animals if you are unable to do so. If you do not have a trailer for hauling your horse, make sure you have several individuals lined up to assist; if one is not available, hopefully, the second person on the phone tree will be.

Plan now for emergency sheltering. Know where you will take your animals. Make arrangements ahead of time with a friend or family member in another area of the county to temporarily house your pets. DO NOT wait for the order to evacuate. Leave at the first sign of trouble.

Have a binder with important documents, including a list of emergency contacts, county animal services; friends/family members who might be able to shelter your horses; and veterinarians. Take photos of your horses and have a detailed written description of each animal; make two copies. Put one set in a safe place and have the second set in your emergency kit binder. In addition, download county emergency numbers on your cell phone.

As part of your ID process, microchip your horse as soon as possible. You can also use livestock chalk to paint phone number on hooves and on neck under the mane. Place a **non-metal** ID tag on halters (a metal tag will burn onto the horse's skin). Hang halter in easy to find location in case your pets need to be evacuated by volunteers.

Teach horses how to trailer before the need arises even if you do not have a trailer. Remember: if volunteers or staff from Animal Services need to evacuate your horses, they need to know how to trailer. Keep trucks and trailers well maintained and ready to move during fire season. Have a halter and rope readily available for each horse. Evacuate at the first sign of trouble.

Have a metal address marker to your property that is easily read and prominently displayed.

Have emergency kit at the ready. Include such items as:

- Three-day supply of feed/water and meds for each animal along with buckets for feed and water; water hose.
- Leads, halters, shanks (if appropriate) for each horse;
- First aid kit and emergency tools: Leg wrap blanket or sheet; Hoof pick; sharp knife; shovel; duct tape; wire cutters.
- Portable radio w/ extra batteries; flashlights; cell phone with charger; binder with emergency information.

**CRITICAL NOTE:** County Animal Services does not evacuate horses or livestock until they receive the mandated evacuation order for your area from the Sheriff's Office. If Animal Services staff are unable to evacuate horses, they may call on SCLAR volunteers (Large Animal Rescue organization). Register your animals with El Dorado County Animal Services before disaster strikes; staff members will then have a ready record of your animals and any special needs they have.

A final note from EDC Animal Services: **DO NOT "Cut Any Animals Loose"** during a disaster. They may continue to run and run until they succumb to heat exhaustion in their panic. Animals located inside of the home or within an enclosure are easier to evacuate.

For more information on disaster preparedness, request emergency brochures from El Dorado County Animal Services.

Website: [edcgov.us/animalservices.gov](http://edcgov.us/animalservices.gov). Phone: 530.621.5795.

Go online to [SCLAR.org](http://SCLAR.org) to learn more about this volunteer organization.

*The key to safety is to evacuate before the order comes in.*