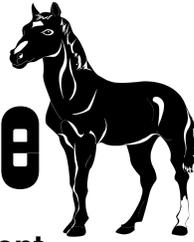




Hurricane



Horse Sense



Special Projects Department

(954) 797-1163

Welcome Back!

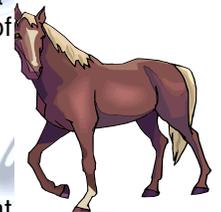
Can you believe Hurricane season is here already! If we learned anything from last season, we learned that early planning is key for both the safety of our horses and our families.

I promised you at the end of last season that I would mail out the 2005 hurricane season Temporary Housing for Horses registration information to all owners that participated in last years program. Please read the enclosed brochure carefully and mail it back or come by and say "hey" and drop it off.

Remember..., the program is for Davie residents and their horses. Proof of residency will be required (a current utility bill) with your application. Send it in now to insure a place and a piece of mind! And, for those who participated last year, enjoy the photos of the "kids" at play!

Bonnie Stafiej

Plan in advance where your animals will weather the storm. In a Class I or II storm, your horses will most likely be safe in a well-constructed barn or stable. In a Class III or IV storm, the animals are better off outside, in an area that is free of debris, has strong fences, and has no overhead power lines. If a Class V storm threatens, it is probably best to trailer the animals out of the area.



EVACUATION

You need to decide now, at what point you will leave, where you will go, and how far in advance of the storm you will leave. Remember that during an evacuation, traffic will be very heavy, and move very slowly. You need to have several alternative routes, and possible destinations. *The worst place for you and your horse to be when a storm hits is on the road in a horse trailer.* Make prior arrangements for a place to board your horses at the evacuation destination. Do not attempt to re-enter your area until it has been declared safe. If you evacuate, call either your local Emergency Management Division at (954) 831-4000 for Broward County or the Florida State Division of Emergency Management at (954) 831-3900 to be sure your area is safe and roads are clear.

Whether you decide to keep your animals in the barn, the pasture, or trailer them out of the area, it is very important that you have them haltered, preferably with a leather halter, and have them well identified.



In most instances, the best place for your animals is in their regular location. This means however, that you must plan ahead, and keep the facility ready for storms all year long. It is impossible to do all that needs to be done to prepare properly during the watch and warning phases.

DEVELOP A WRITTEN HURRICANE PLAN



Developing a written plan is one of the first steps to insuring your horses' safety. Share the plan with others and let them know how to reach you, or set up a definite contact, out of the area, that you will call, so they can inform others of how you are. The plan needs to be very specific in terms of what needs to be done, who will do it, and a time line for getting the tasks completed. The plan also needs to contain information about where critical supplies and tools are located and where they should be secured for the storm.

Develop a list of the feed, hay, water, and other supplies that you will need for your animals if a storm hits. Plan to be self sufficient for a period of at least one week. Have adequate storage of these items.



Water: Plan on 12 gallons of water per horse per day. If you become concerned about the safety of the water, it can be purified with 8 to 12 drops of chlorine bleach per gallon or 12 drops of iodine. If you determine that your animals will spend the storm in their stalls, leave several buckets of water with them.

Food: Be sure that you have adequate supplies of hay and grain on hand prior to the storm. Grains should be stored in water proof containers, and if possible be up off the floor in the event of flooding. Store your hay in an area that you believe will be as dry as possible, cover well in the event of leaks, and try to raise it off the floor. The University of Florida Extension veterinarians recommend that you not leave grain in the stalls with your horses if you stable them during the storm. Leave coastal hay for your horse. Coastal will keep them busy searching for the "good parts" during the storm.

Veterinary Supplies: Just as you need a first aid kit for yourself and your family, you need one for your animals. Check with your own vet to see what they recommend you keep on hand for a storm.

Basic Supplies: antiseptic cream or powder, antibiotic cream, bandaging and vet wrap, scissors, tweezers, fly-spray, electrolyzes, dewormer, and any specific treatments that your animals may require. Check at the beginning of the hurricane season to see that your supplies are still in date.

You and your vet together should make the decision as to whether your animal might need to be tranquilized during a storm. For a very high strung animal, it may help him come through without panicking and injuring himself. However you do not want to tranquilize the animal to the point that he can't react to save himself from dangerous situations.

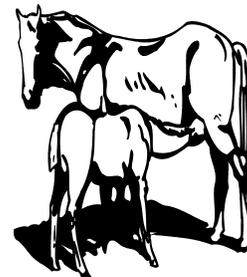
If you are keeping your animal in your barn or pasture, there are some things you can do to help protect them.

It is recommended that your horse wear bell boots. It is also recommend that you prepare their hoofs to protect them from very wet conditions. Spray their hooves and with a solution of one part chlorine bleach and three parts water, then coat them thickly with petroleum jelly. This can help to prevent hoof rot. Do not wrap your horses legs.

Flying debris can cause serious injuries to your animals. It is important to remove any debris and trash piles around your own property, and work with others in your immediate neighborhood to get debris cleaned up well before hurricane season starts.

IDENTIFYING YOUR ANIMALS

Identifying your animals well is a crucial part of getting them returned to you in the event that they get loose during a disaster. There are a number of recommended ways of clearly identifying your horses:



1. Spray paint your telephone number, including the area code, on the side of the animal with a contrasting shade of acrylic paint.
2. Braid luggage tags into the mane and tail with your name, address, and telephone numbers, and possibly with the numbers of out of the area contacts. Be sure the information is written in water proof ink, and tape the tags to water-proof them further.
3. Fetlock or mare bands with the appropriate information in waterproof ink.
4. Put the information in a sealed plastic bag, and tape it securely to the halter.
5. Horses can also be branded, tattooed, registered, or micro chipped to provide permanent forms of identification.

SUMMARY

Your horse depends on you to keep it safe. You need to develop a solid plan, and work the plan. Identify your horse to facilitate its return in the event it gets lost.

Our horses give us much pleasure, but they can become incredibly expensive when injured or sick. Investments in keeping them safe can pay big dividends in preventing injury and heartbreak.

It is suggested that you laminate and post the following numbers on your barn.

Emergency Numbers	
Broward County Emergency Management Center	(954) 831-4000
Florida State Division of Emergency Management	(954) 831-3900
Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200
Davie Fire Department	(954) 797-1213
Davie Animal Release Program	(954) 797-1163
Your Veterinarian	_____