

# Disaster Prep for PETS, EQUINES & BACKYARD LIVESTOCK in FireSafe Communities

JULIE ATWOOD, Speaker



**HALTER**  
Project  
ANIMAL EMERGENCY + DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE

- **Founded 2013**
- **Producer of Home & Ranch Readiness events (ongoing)**
- **2016 FEMA Individual & Community Preparedness Awards**
- **2016 Established Sonoma Valley Animal Emergency Response Team**
- **2023 FireSAFE Sonoma Leadership Award**



# Nuns Fire – Oct. 8, 2017



Atwood Ranch



Sept. 2017



# Have more than one of everything!

- Plans
- Ways to get alerts
- Places to go
- Ways to get there
- People to help you

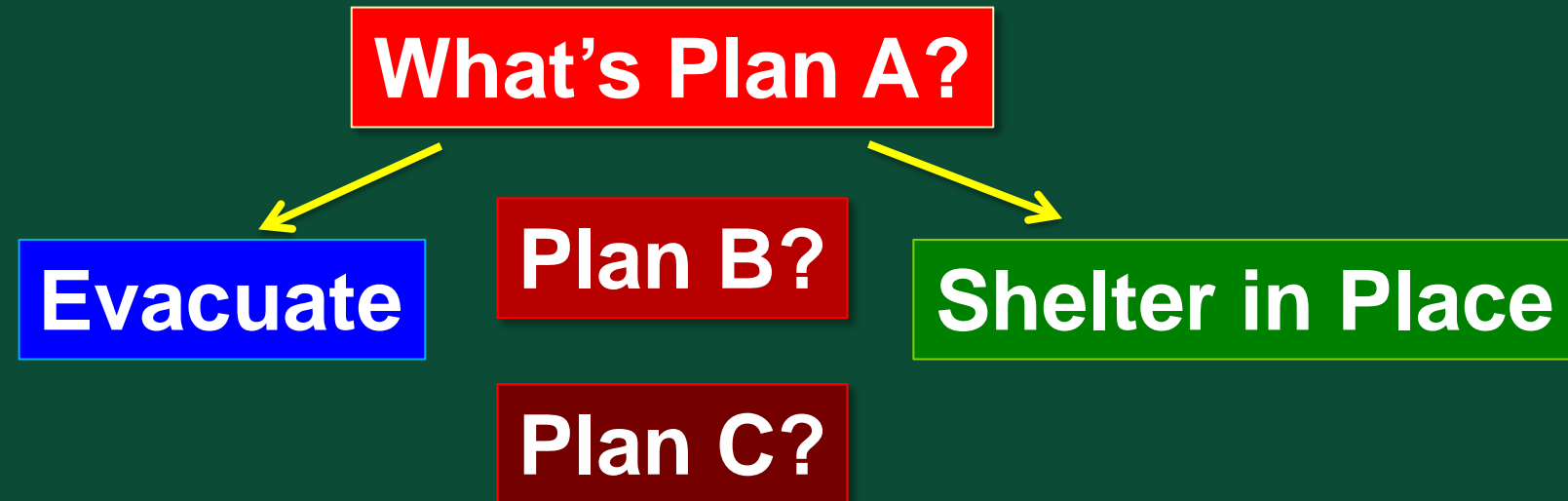


# Plan for Everything

- Evacuation
- Shelter in Place
- Long Power Outages
- You're unable to care for animals



# Evacuate or Shelter-in-Place? How to Prepare



What are the risks for each hazard?

What do you need?

What resources are available?

# Your Disaster Action Plan: Make it! Update It! Practice it!

- Emergency contacts
- Photos, ID & registration documents
- Vet records, prescriptions, dosage
- Advance Care Directive & animal insurance



# Where to get it

**HALTER**  
Project

ANIMAL DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS+RESPONSE

HALTERproject.org

**FireSAFE**

**ANIMALS**



[HALTERproject.org/firesafe-portal](https://HALTERproject.org/firesafe-portal)

Everything you need to make your plans, in free downloadable workbooks for:

- ✓ Seniors
- ✓ Backyard Equines
- ✓ Spanish readers/speakers
- ✓ Equine Safety for Firefighters

UPDATED 6-2024

**EMERGENCY & DISASTER PET PREP for SENIORS**

HALTER Project  
HALTERproject.org

**How to Use this Workbook**

- Take time to read through all the information.
- Fill out the Emergency Plan and Advance Care Forms on the last 2 pages of the packet.

**Where to put your Disaster Plan Forms**

- 1 copy with your personal documents
- 1 copy somewhere in your home where helper or responder can see it easily.
- 1 copy to your veterinarian.
- Give a copy to all the people who would care for your animal(s) if you aren't able to.
- Store electronically and have forms scanned along with your other personal documents.
- Keep information updated!


Fill out the "Animals at Home" sign and laminate or place in a zip-lock to have ready when needed.

Put animal emergency contacts with your personal info on refrigerator or other place where responders can find it.

Keep a card in your wallet with Pet Emergency information.


Emergency & Disaster Pet Prep for Seniors

**Barn & Ranch Disaster Prep**



HALTER Project  
ANIMAL DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS+RESPONSE

HALTERProject.org  
Rescue@Halterfund.org



# Animal EAP & Contacts

- 1 Copy with your documents
- 1 Copy electronically
- Give to all your Animal Helpers
- Wherever Responders can see them.

## ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLAN

**For Pets, Equines,  
Backyard Livestock**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- ❖ Keep a copy with your important records.
- ❖ Put a copy where helpers & responders can see it.
- ❖ Give a copy to an animal caregiver.

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information**

Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Diet Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication: \_\_\_\_\_ Dose: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication: \_\_\_\_\_ Dose: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Attach copies of pet's vaccination records and a photo of your pet to this plan\*\*

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY SHELTERING INFORMATION**

For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Identify 2 hotels/motels that accept pets in your area for short-term emergencies and 2 long-term pet boarding options. Long-term options could include boarding kennels, veterinarians, and animal shelters.

**Hotels/Motels:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Boarding Options:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Top Tips

- ✓ Make **Awareness** part of daily life.
- ✓ Be signed up for all local alerts.
- ✓ Know your **Evac Zones**!
- ✓ Team up with neighbors.
- ✓ Plan for early **Evac AND** a for **SIP**.
- ✓ Review with neighbors, barn mates, staff, volunteers.

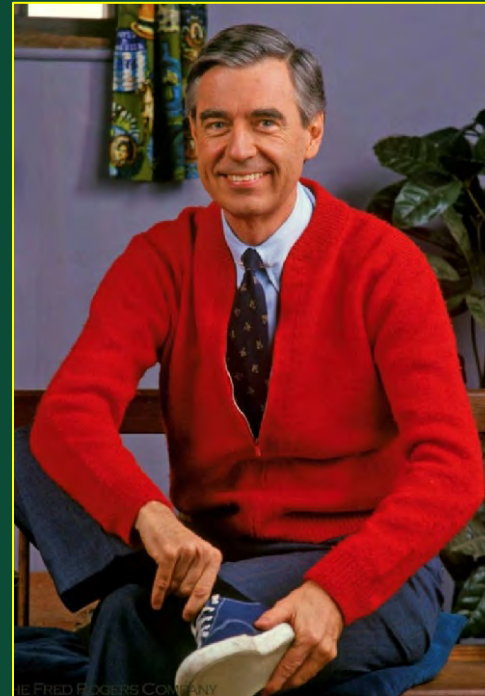
**Practice! Update! Refresh! Repeat!**

# Your Personal Safety Net

11

Helpers who can assist you with evacuation, transportation, and shelter.

- Who will help you with your animals?
- Where will you go?
- How will you get there?
- Are your contacts up to date?
- Is contact info accessible in different formats?
- Do you have resources who will help your animals if you are not home?



# Who is in Buddy Network?

## People who will help you if...

- You're sick or injured.
- Need transportation and/or evacuation help.
- Need a place for you and/or your animals to stay.

## Who?

- Neighbors and friends in same evac zone.
- Helpers at your destination.
- Caregivers.



# Travel & Animal Sitters

- Make an AEP for travel.
- Review “What to Do” with sitters.



# Get Informed, Stay Informed

- Sign up for all local alerts
- Use a weather alert radio
- Follow National Weather Service
- Watch & listen to local news radio & TV
- Apps, Watch Duty, Earthquake, NOAA
- Follow local Emergency Services on social media
- Join or start a neighborhood radio group

AlertSCC is the County of Santa Clara's official emergency alert and warning system.



## How to Know: **PREP** or **GO**?

By paying attention to local weather forecasts and alerts.

**PREP** during Weather **WATCH**

**GO** during Weather **WARNING**

**DON'T WAIT to EVACUATE!**

# WHEN to go?

**Any time you don't feel safe!**

- Get **READY** when Weather Watch is on TV, radio, apps.
  - Get **SET** or **GO** when there's a **Weather WARNING**
    - Go **NOW** if there's a Red Flag, Flood or other Severe Weather Alert or Evac **WARNING**

# Dangers of Waiting

- Evac Warning can change fast.
- Evac can be ordered without a warning.
- Dangerous, stressful, loading and driving conditions.
- Severe traffic, power & fuel access limited.
- Evac may not be possible.



# Know **WHERE** to Go

**GOAL: Keep animals & people out of crowded shelters!**

- Shelters are last resort or a good temporary rest stop.
- Keep a current list of places to go:  
Pet-friendly motels, Airbnb's, friends.
- Confirm or reserve early.
- Emergency Alerts may provide info.
- Call 211 may have info.

**IMPORTANT!**  
Shelters may not  
be opened until  
an emergency  
is declared!

# If Your Pet Is Not Cooperating **STAY CALM!!**

Steps to take if safely possible:

- Leave escape route for pets, post sign on door.
- Leave carrier & leash.
- Close all home doors & windows but leave windows unlocked, leave a key.
- Call Animal Services when you are safe.

**Nope!**  
Not going  
in there!



# Service Animals

Dogs & mini equines (ONLY) trained to perform services to accommodate a disability.



# Situations that may require your dog to wear a muzzle...

If your dog is NOT in a carrier, and you are:

- At a shelter that allows people and pets.
- Using public transportation.

❖ Practice with your pooch!



# The Essentials: Supplies for Evac & SIP

Checklists for ALL your animals  
[HALTERproject.org/checklists](http://HALTERproject.org/checklists)



### EQUINE READY-KIT

First-aid kit with EVERYTHING

- Hoof care tools
- Climbing rope
- Extra halters & lead ropes
- Long butt-rope
- Fly spray & stick
- Leg wraps
- Fly masks
- Uintment
- Treats
- Towels, assorted buckets
- Slow-feed hay nets
- Food & water in trailer & arena
- 1 gal. metal can w/handle
- EZ boots
- Vicks in a tube
- 1 mane-stall comb
- 1 coat brush
- Fly sheets in a vacuum bag
- Hose, nozzle

### EQUINE ID

- Use multiple forms of ID
- Micro-chip (keep updated)
- ManeStar ID tags
- halter wraps w/ contact info
- Livestock ear tags & markers
- Livestock crayons and paint
- ID Tags & Markers
- Reflective neck and leglock bands
- Giant markers
- Duct Tape (Reflective or Neon)
- Registration, Vet Records
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Directives:
  - What to do and amount of expense approved
  - White Board listing all animals & locations
  - Photos of you with your pets and equine

### DOG READY-KIT

- Medicine packs with full set of meds
- Key food
- Water
- Travel bowls
- Treats
- BLUNT
- Health records
- Emergency contacts
- Photos of family with dog
- Kennel pads
- Grooming brushes and wipers
- Collar, harness and leash
- Reflective or LED collar and/or vest
- First aid kit
- Towels
- Flash light and batteries
- Water purification tablets
- Can opener
- Pet carrier and/or collapsible crate
- Poop bags

### KITTY GO-KIT

- Medicine packs with full set of meds
- Health records & emergency contacts
- First aid kit
- Dry food
- Small cans of wet food
- Can opener
- Fork
- Paper towels
- Water
- Travel bowls
- Thunder shirts
- Calmng spray
- Treats & toys
- Kennel pads
- Grooming brushes and wipers
- Towels
- Harness & leash
- Cat carrier

### Backyard Poultry Emergency Supplies

- Carriers or wire cages for transport and temporary housing
- Bedding & trash bags for waste disposal
- Chicken wire, screen cloth, staple gun & staples, or bird netting, wire cutters
- Feed & supplements for 2-4 weeks
- Water & bowls, dispenser
- Poultry-safe disinfectant
- Secure container to keep feed fresh
- Electrolytes
- Saline
- Betadine
- Sterile Gauze, vetwrap, tape
- Parasite control
- Uncoated adult aspirin
- Small oral syringes
- Beak repair kit: nail clippers, super glue, thin paper or muslin
- Aquaphor
- Medical honey
- Antibiotic ointment
- Preparation H
- Epsom salt, Vaseline
- Mister, spray bottle, ice chest & cold packs
- BioSafety Kit: Disposable gloves & shoe covers, surgical & N95 respirator masks, bleach, tub for foot bath, hose & nozzle, buckets
- Contacts for avian vets in your region
- Get the UCCE Backyard Poultry App

### Bird Ready-Kit

- Red Travel Carrier = 24 birds max, species, and your contact info
- Your contact information
- Your veterinarian's contact information
- Fronted and proof pen if you'd like
- Leg Band and Microchip numbers
- Bottle of water for 4 days
- Food for 4 days
- Bird-safe Disinfectant
- Roll(s) of Paper Towels
- Bath Towel(s)
- Bird Harness
- Spray bottle or mister
- Medications, if your bird requires them
- Perch Cleaning Formant
- First Aid Kit
- More spacious cage to transfer into for comfortable stay from home to lodging

### First Aid Kit

- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Flora, cornstarch, or homeopathic products
- Disposable gloves
- Disinfecting glass
- Pen light
- Nail clippers
- Nail clippers
- lubricants
- Clips
- Microchip pads
- Bandage rolls
- Wooden sticks
- Cotton swabs
- Syringe / eye droppers

### Rabbit Ready-Kit (Also for cavies, pocket pets)

- Travel Carrier with rabbit's name
- Vet Records, medications, prescriptions
- Emergency contacts, ID & Photos
- Wire cage to transfer into at destination
- Water & water bottles
- Bedding & kennel pads, litter box, paper litter
- Poop bags & scoop for waste disposal
- Fresh Timothy or grass hay, pellet food
- Paper sacks for hay storage
- Pumpkin baby food
- Spoon, jar lid
- Non-pill fleece blanket
- Towel or pillowcases
- Heating & Cooling pads, or hot-cold packs
- Grooming supplies
- Rabbit-safe unscented pet or baby wipes
- Non-latex gloves, hand sanitizer, surgical, and N95 masks
- Rabbit-safe cleaning disinfectant, (Rescue, Vital Oxide, etc) or alcohol wipes
- Bleach & detergent
- Spray bottles, small bucket
- Paper towels
- Toys/Enrichment
- Harness

### Health & First Aid Kit

- Parasite control
- Small syringes, droppers
- Ziplock bags
- Baby Simethicone drops
- Baby aspirin
- Saline
- Wound disinfectant
- Betadine swabs
- Alcohol wipes / swabs
- VetWrap, tape, roll gauze, gauze pads
- Adhesive bandages
- Aquaphor, Medical honey
- Antibiotic ointment
- Blunt-tip Scissors, nail clippers, tweezers
- Cornstarch or styptic powder
- Unflavored Pedialyte
- Baby food packets (apple-carrot, pumpkin, green veggies)

# How Much Do You Need? At Least.....

**GO:** 5-7 days (2 weeks is better!)

**STAY:** 1 month minimum

- Add more: special diet food, meds, parasite control.
- Buy in bulk as a group and share.



# Water!

## How Much Do I Need for a Day?

- Humans: 1.5 – 2 gallons
- Horses: 12 – 20 gallons
- Dogs: 1 oz / pound
- Cats: 5-10 ounces
- Small ruminants: 1 - 2 gallons
- Poultry: 1-2 gallons  
(per 12-20)







# ID for All – Big or Small

- Microchip – Keep Updated!
- Visible ID on animals
- ID on crates & carriers
- Photos & descriptions of animals.
- Photos, videos, descriptions of you with your animals.

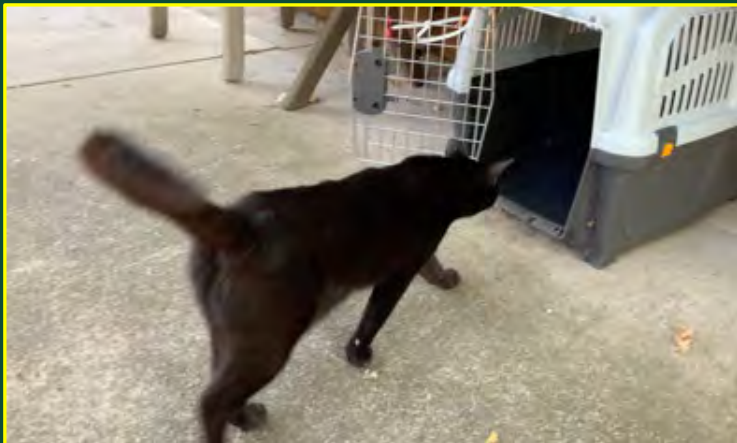
**Equine ID**

- ✓ Micro-chip! Keep Updated!!
- ✓ Livestock Spray Paint
- ✓ Livestock Crayons
- ✓ ID Tags & Markers
- ✓ Duct Tape (Reflective or Neon)
- ✓ Registration, Vet Records
- ✓ Emergency Contacts
- ✓ Medical Directives: What to do, Approved expense(s)
- ✓ White Board listing all animals & locations
- ✓ Photos of you with your pets and equine



# Practice!

- Make a **Weather Watch Routine**.
- Practice with Buddies.
- Practice in different conditions.



# Your **Pet** Weather Watch Routine

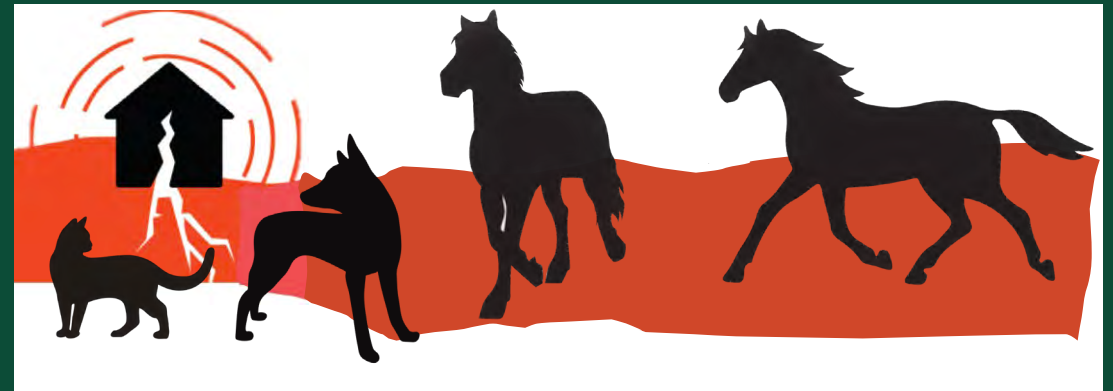
- Keep pets close.
  - Confine indoors, if possible.
    - Put on collars and/or harness.
    - Go-Bags and crates prepped and loaded.
    - Vehicles fueled & out of garage.
      - Check-in and update pet-friendly destination info.
        - Practice with neighbors and pets.
          - If possible, go for walks or play so pets are relaxed in their crate.

# Earthquake Safety Awareness

**DURING:** Don't try to hold on to pets.

**AFTER:** Try to sweep up, wipe or cover spills.

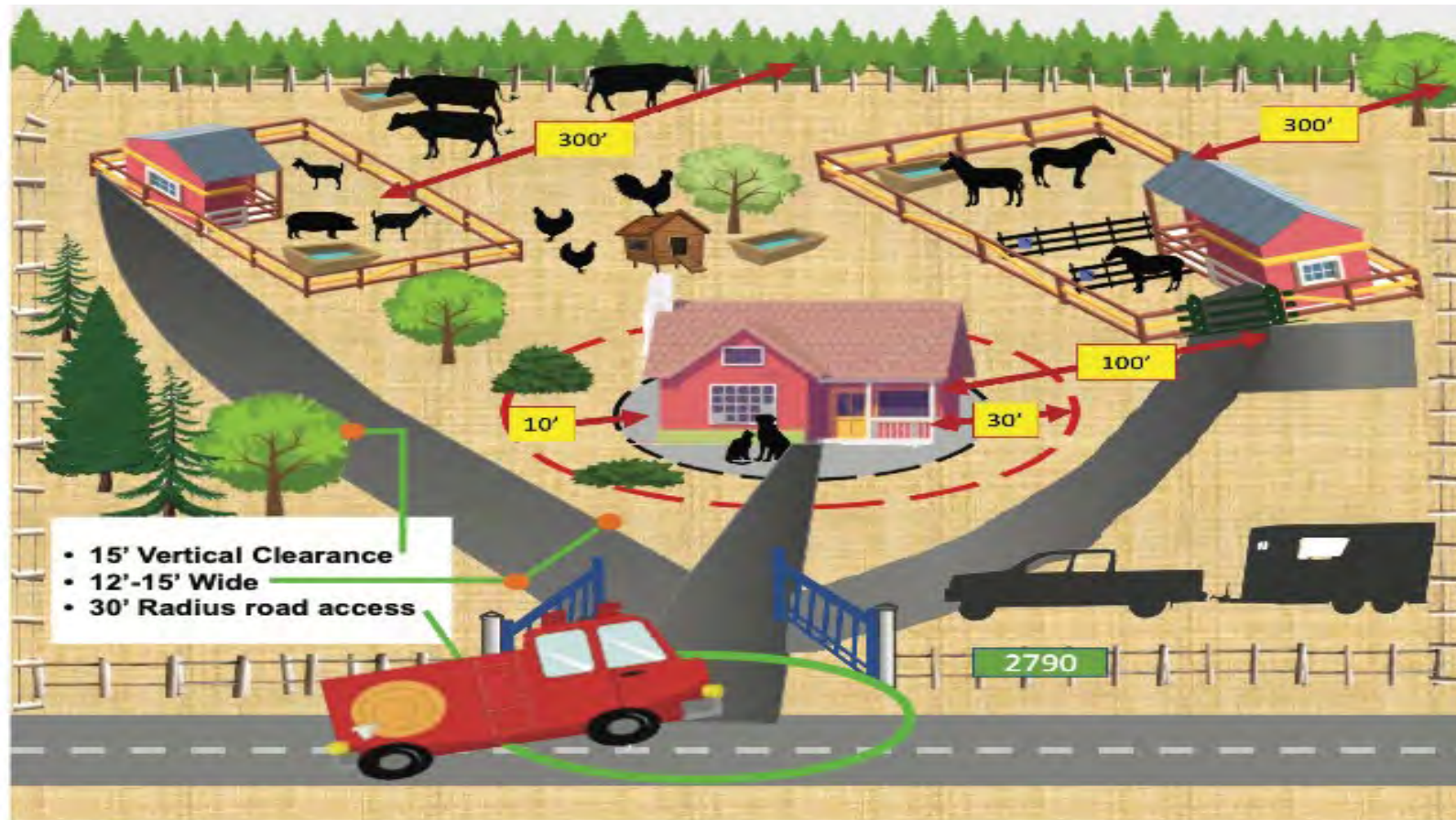
- Secure your pet on a leash or in a carrier.
- Outdoor hazards: Utilities, power lines, trees, roads, ground instability.
- Barns and water tanks may be compromised.



# Tsunami, Flash Flood, Debris Flow

- Take alerts and forecasts seriously.  
- If you receive a tsunami alert, leave immediately.
- Conditions can change suddenly.   
- Move yourself and animals during Weather Watch.
- **Never leave animals tied, chained, or locked indoors.**

## Safer Homes = Safer Animals



# Help Responders Help Your Animals & You

- **Maintain access for emergency vehicles**
  - **2-Sided reflective address signs**
    - **Unlock gates & disable electric openers**
      - **Provide detailed Site Map to local Fire Department and Animal Rescue Team**

Provide property hazard & resource info to responders.

XYZ Ranch  
12345 Your Road, Your Town, Your Zip

Contact 1: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact 2: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



● Equines: \_\_\_ Mares \_\_\_ Foals \_\_\_ Geldings \_\_\_ Stallions \_\_\_ Minis

◆ Cattle: Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

▲ Barn Cats: Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Names \_\_\_\_\_

★ Dogs: Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Loose? \_\_\_\_\_ In kennels? \_\_\_\_\_ Friendly? \_\_\_\_\_

● Chickens / Poultry:

● Small Ruminants:  EV Station

○ Water ○ Troughs:

☠ Hazardous Material

Evacuate or Shelter in place (SIP)?

NOTES:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Help for Animals You Can't Take With You

## Who can help you?

### **BEFORE an Evac Order**

Call on your own network of resources for help, transport, and shelter.

### **Inside an Evac Zone**

Only authorized Responders have access.

- You, or someone you assign, must call to request animal services for animals inside Evac Zones.
- Check local emergency alerts, websites, and Facebook pages for additional information.

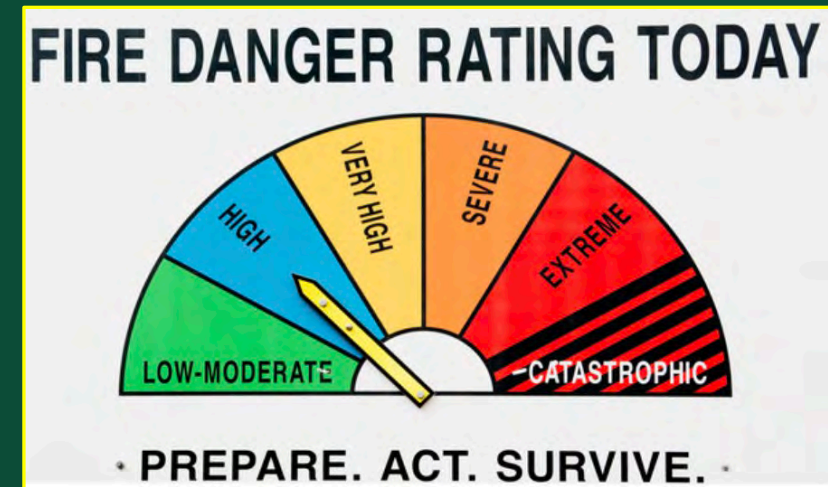
# For Equines & Backyard Livestock



## Weather Watch Routine for Equines & Others

**Practice your routine regularly, in all kinds of conditions.**

- Supplies loaded
- Prep your property
- Practice with helpers
- Confine animals where you can catch quickly
- Practice loading (feed in trailer, drive your route)
- Truck & trailer fueled, checked, set to go



## EVAC PLANNING: ASSESS the RISKS

- Can old or crippled animals be loaded and transported safely?
- How long will it take to load?
- How many rigs and helpers will you need?
- Do you have a plan for sick animals?



# Evac Prep to Load and Go

- Contain animals so they're easy to catch and load
- Supplies, equipment, go-kits are loaded
- Rigs are inspected, fueled and staged facing out
- Trailer prepped
  - ✓ Clean, No bedding!
  - ✓ Windows closed



**Remember  
Your PPE!**



# Large Animal Evac Prep

## Are They Ready?

- Will they load?
- Are your helpers ready?
- ID on all
- Good halters & lead ropes for all, plus extras



# How Safe Is Your Property?

- Is your infrastructure **All-Hazards** safe?
- Will it be accessible **after** a fire or earthquake?
- If **water** is power-dependent, is there a backup source?
- Water tanks and pump secure?

Can Responders  
find and get  
into your property?



Hazard trees!

# Your Animal Refuge Area

- ✓ Is it defensible?
- ✓ Irrigated or drylot pasture?
- ✓ How far from radiant heat sources (heavy brush or timber, big barns, etc.)?
- ✓ Secure, firesafe fencing?
- ✓ Away from busy roads?



# Shelter-in-Place Risks

- Animals may be without care or clean water for several days.
- Animals might get loose if fences are down.
- Possible exposure to fire retardant or water air drops.
- Exposure to ember cast, smoke, heat, toxins.



Credit: 564FirePhotos

# Site Prep for SIP

- Remove “stuff” around home and animal areas.
- Increase water storage -- add tanks, troughs.
- Secure troughs so they can't tip.
- Locate hay and bedding away from animals.
- Increase humidity in critical areas.



# Animal Prep for Shelter-in-Place

- Add visible IDs.
- Remove masks, halters, blankets, wraps.
- Turn animals out but not loose.
- Close doors to barns and sheds.
- Gates secure but not locked.
- Hose down animals.
- Braid manes, prevent tails from dragging.
- Check for loose shoes.



## Request Help for Animals You Cannot Evacuate, Get Shelter Information

- There are authorized resources, but you, or a trusted buddy **MUST CALL TO REQUEST** animal services.
- Stay calm, and be ready to give clear, precise details about your animals and their location.
- Updates may be provided by Santa Clara County and Los Altos Hills Emergency Services via alerts, websites, Facebook pages.

**Santa Clara County Animal Services: 408-686-3900 (English & Español)**

**Palo Alto Police 24-Hour Dispatch: 650-329-2413**

**Palo Alto Animal Shelter: 650-496-5971**

**Santa Clara County Large Animal Evac Team – [scclaet.org](http://scclaet.org)**

**To request large animal rescue in a disaster, contact Santa Clara Animal Services**

**San Mateo Large Animal Evac Group - [smclaeg.org](http://smclaeg.org)**

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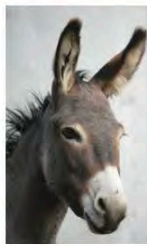


[HALTERproject.org/firesafe-portal](https://HALTERproject.org/firesafe-portal)

**Get tips, checklists, and  
Animal Disaster Plan Packets  
for every animal owner.**

**Everything you need to make  
your plans, in free downloadable  
workbooks for:**

- » **Seniors**
- » **Backyard Equines**
- » **Spanish readers/speakers**
- » **Equine Safety for Firefighters**



**Subscribe to our Newsletter at  
HALTERproject.org  
for seasonal tips, community  
engagement and education  
opportunities.**

# Other Resources



## CVET

[cvet.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/response-resources](http://cvet.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/response-resources)



## UC Davis Center for Equine Health

[ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/disaster-preparedness](http://ceh.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/health-topics/disaster-preparedness)



## Santa Clara County Large Animal Evac Team

[scclaet.org](http://scclaet.org)



## San Mateo Large Animal Evac Group

[smclaeg.org](http://smclaeg.org)



## Los Altos Hills Horseman's Association

[lahha.org](http://lahha.org)



# Los Altos Hills Resources

For trusted websites, local radio stations  
and other alerts & warnings information  
please go to:

<https://bit.ly/AlertsandWarningsPresentatio>



Alerts&Warnings



Alert SCC

- AlertSCC This information will be pushed to your landline, cell phone, by text and by email depending on what platforms you choose. You would not have to seek out information.
- Nixle Nixle is the Town's emergency notification system used to provide emergency warning, updates and instructions to the community.
  - The system sends messages to all landline phones.
  - Cell phones must be individually registered with the system.
  - Text your zip code to 888777 to add your cell phone or register at <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/370/Emergency-Alerts---Register>
- Know Your Zone Genasys Protect (formerly Zonehaven) Know your evacuation [zoneprotect.genasys.com](http://zoneprotect.genasys.com)



GENASYS



THANK YOU!

**HALTER** Project  
ANIMAL DISASTER  
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**Let's get together!  
Schedule a HALTER Project Workshop  
or Ambassador class !**



[rescue@halterfund.org](mailto:rescue@halterfund.org)

[HALTERproject.org](http://HALTERproject.org)