



Welcome to Animal Preparedness with Julie Atwood, Halter Project



Be Ready Be Prepared: Animal Preparedness

August 22, 2026



HALTER Project
ANIMAL DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE



Important Messages & Fire District Introductions

Housekeeping, Safety, Hybrid Etiquette

AED, Fire Extinguishers, Restrooms

Two ways out of the Chambers

Evacuation Meet at Parking lot by circle



Dee King Raub

*Project Specialist
Risk Reduction*

Webinar Facilitator



Denise Gluhan

CERR Manager

Co-Instructor

Hosted By



Be Ready! Be Prepared!

Disaster Prep for Pets, Equines & Backyard Livestock

August 22, 2026

JULIE ATWOOD, Speaker

HALTERProject
ANIMAL DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE



HALTER Project

Founded in 2013

WHAT WE DO:

- Inspire animal owners and their communities to be prepared for emergencies and natural disasters.
- Support training and development of Animal Technical Rescue Teams.
- Provide education and information resources for the whole community, including senior and disabled residents, non-English speakers, and tourists.
- Connect donors with nonprofit organizations who provide aid to animals in disasters in their communities.



Highlights

- FEMA Individual & Community Preparedness Awards
- Established Sonoma Valley Animal Emergency Response Team
- FireSAFE Sonoma Leadership Award
- Engaged with communities around the world



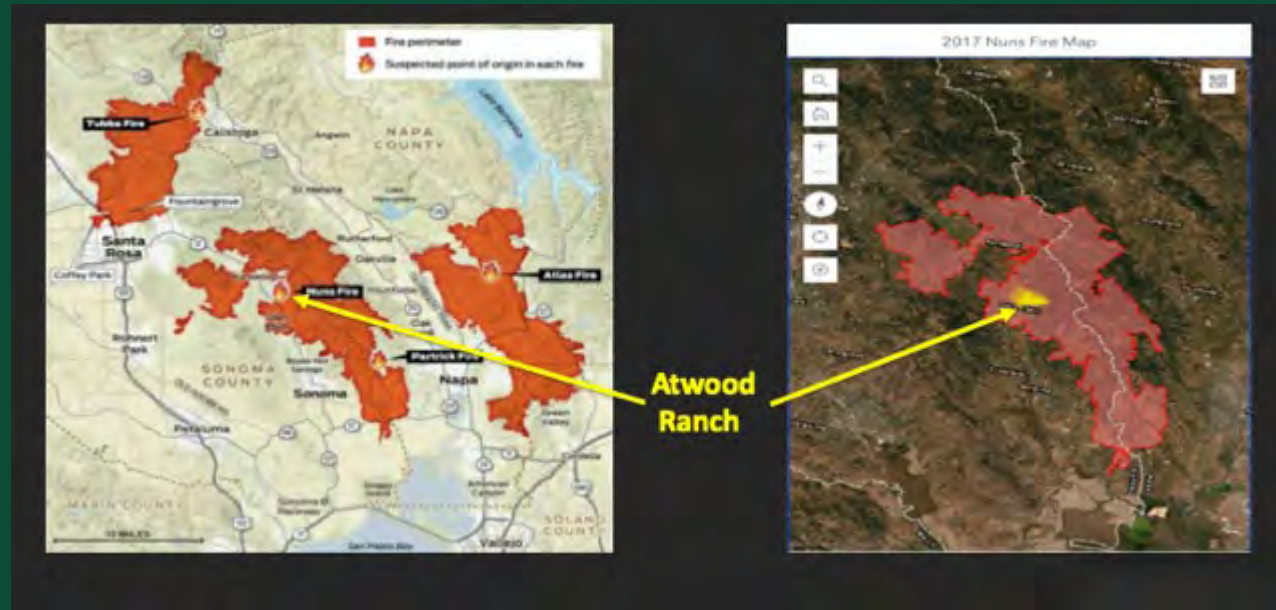
About Julie

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The Power of Preparedness

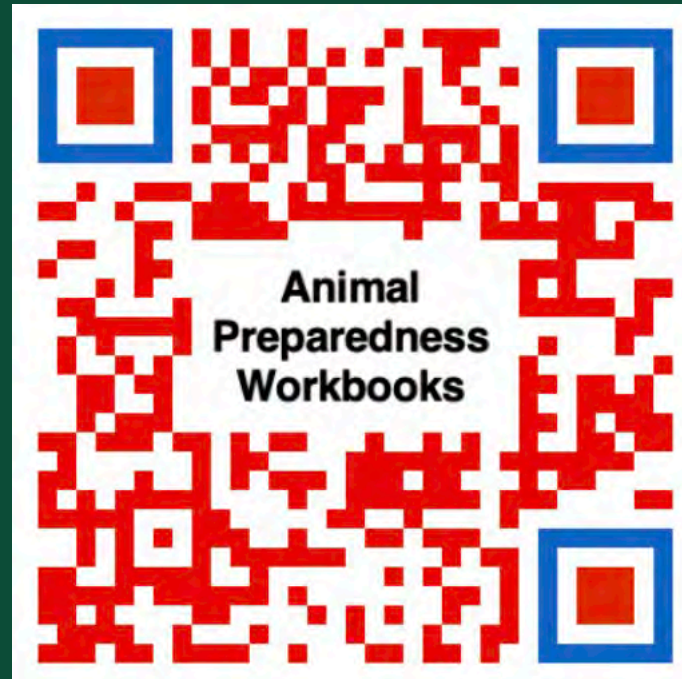
Sept. 1, 2017 7



Oct. 8, 2017



Get Your Animal Prep Workbooks Here in English and Spanish



Animal Preparedness Workbooks

for San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz Counties

Download at HALTERproject.org

South Bay – Santa Cruz
**Pet Emergency
& Disaster Prep**



South Bay – Santa Cruz
**Animal Disaster
Action Plan**



South Bay – Santa Cruz
**Animal Emergency
& Disaster Prep for
Seniors & Caregivers**



Animals in the WUI



South Bay – Santa Cruz
**Barn & Ranch
Safety Planner**



South Bay – Santa Cruz
**Plan de Emergencias
Para Mascotas**



**Disaster Prep for
Small CA Farms**



All Geo
**Emergency Planning
for Animal Travelers**



Your Animal Emergency Action Plan: Make it! Update It! Practice it!

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



Animal EAP & Contacts

- 1 Copy with your documents
- 1 Copy electronically
- Give to all your Animal Helpers
- Review with your Care Giver
- Put wherever Responders can see it.

Animal Emergency Action Plan & Advance Care Directive Forms

• How to use them • Where to keep them

For questions, more information, or to
schedule a workshop, contact
rescue@halterfund.org

This packet includes 2 forms: an Animal Emergency Action Plan and an Advance Care Directive. These are key tools to help your animals in an emergency.

After you fill out the Animal Emergency Plan form, you'll need to make several copies and keep it where you or someone caring for your animals can find and use it quickly.

- One copy goes with your personal documents in your "grab & go" binder, file or bag.
- Keep one copy in the house where a helper, responder, or pet-sitter can find it easily.
- Give a copy to all the people who might care for your animal(s) if you're not able to.
- Store it electronically along with your other important documents.

Advance Veterinary Care Directive Form

This form is on the back side of the Emergency Plan form. It provides your instructions for the care of your pet or other animals if you are not available.

- Keep a copy with your Emergency Plan.
- Give a copy to your veterinarian.
- Give copies to the people who might care for your animals if you cannot.

TIPS

- Put copies of your Emergency Plan and Advance Care Directive in ziploc sandwich bag or clear envelope and attach to your refrigerator door, next to your own "File of Life" if you have one.
- Keep a card in your wallet with pet info on it.

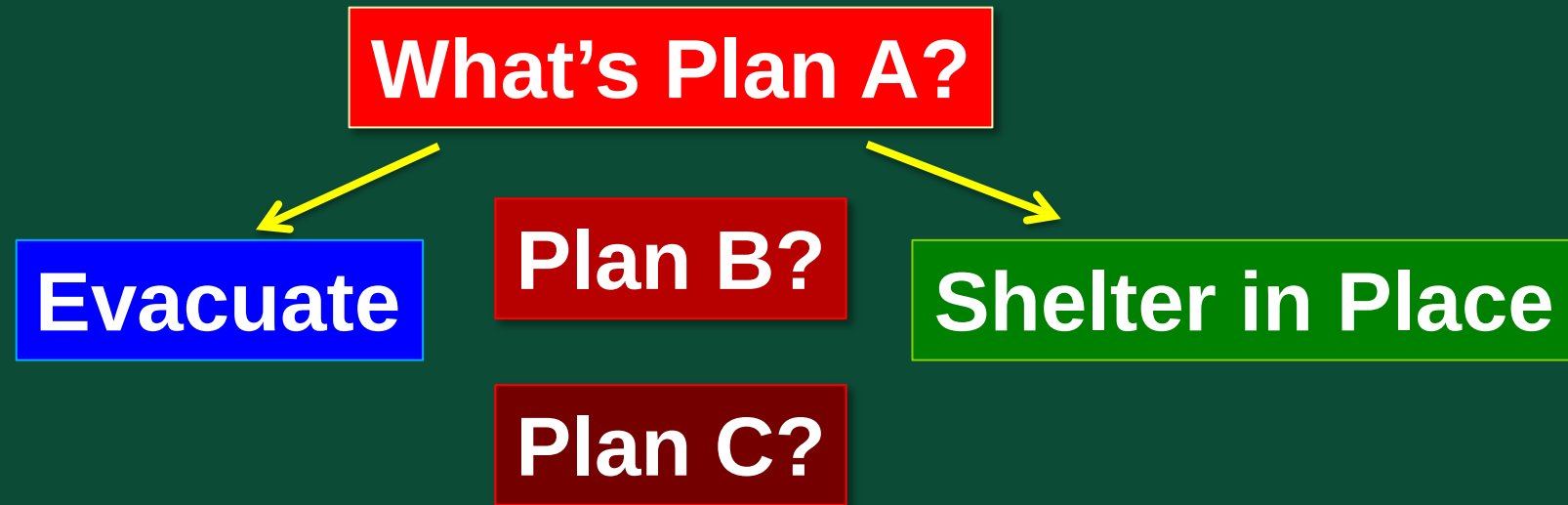
IF YOU HAVE EQUINES or COMPANION LIVESTOCK

- If you have equines or companion livestock or poultry, put a binder or file with this information in a safe place in the barn, garage or outbuilding.
- If you board your horses, make sure the barn manager has this information.
- Keep a copy in your vehicle glove compartment.




Personal Emergency? or Natural Disaster?

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What are the risks for each hazard?

What do you need?

What resources are available?

Have **more** than
1 of **everything**!

- Emergency Plan
- 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



Top Tips - 1

- Be personally prepared.
- Have a plan for every type of emergency and natural disaster you and your animals might face.
- Pack supplies for **GO** - **STAY**
- Know how to get local alerts & accurate emergency information.

Top Tips - 2

- Know and practice your evacuation routes.
- Know the evac zones relevant to you, your family and animals.
- Create an animal emergency buddy network of helpers and destinations.
- Make plans and practice together with your animals, helpers, and buddy network.

Top Tips - 3

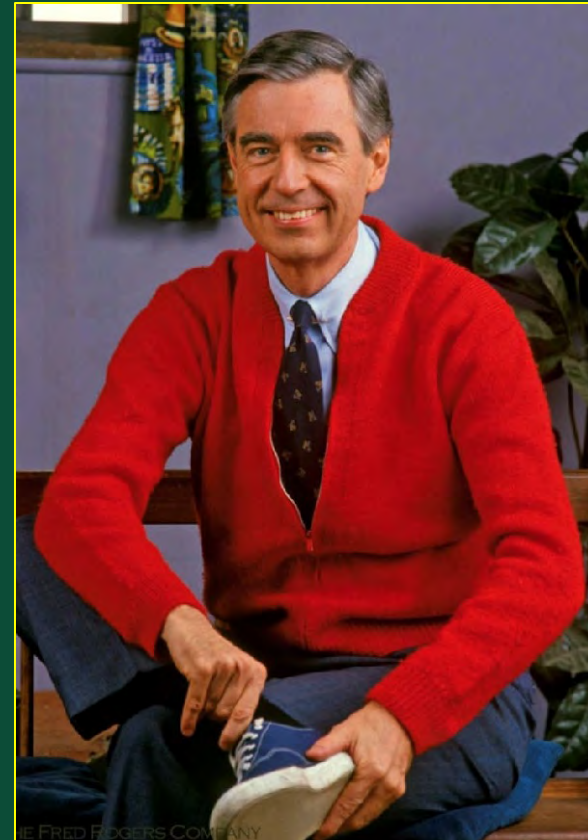
- Have multiple destinations where you and your animals can be safe.
- Make your home and your animal's home as strong and safe as possible.
- Be familiar with your neighbors and their animals. Help each other.
- Use apps as backup to emergency alerts: WatchDuty, NOAA, My Shake, AirNow, or other AQ apps.

Your Personal Safety Net

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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 Your 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.





Get Informed, Stay Informed

- Sign up for all local alerts
- Use a weather 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



Situational Awareness

Your strongest tool

- Look up, down, all around
- Pay attention to local weather forecast and alerts
- Pay attention to changing conditions
- Be aware of potential hazards around you
- Plan to move animals ahead of Evac situations
- **Don't wait for someone to tell you to go!**



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 **SET** or **GO** when there's a **Weather WATCH or WARNING**
- **Go NOW** if there's a Red Flag, Flood or other Severe **Weather** Alert or **EVACUATION WARNING**

Know **WHERE** to Go

♥ **Avoid shelters if possible.**

- Keep a current list of places to go:
Pet-friendly motels, Airbnb's,
friends & relatives.
- Confirm or reserve early.

IMPORTANT!

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



Service Animals

Dogs & Mini Equines
(ONLY) trained to
perform services to
accommodate
a disability.



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.



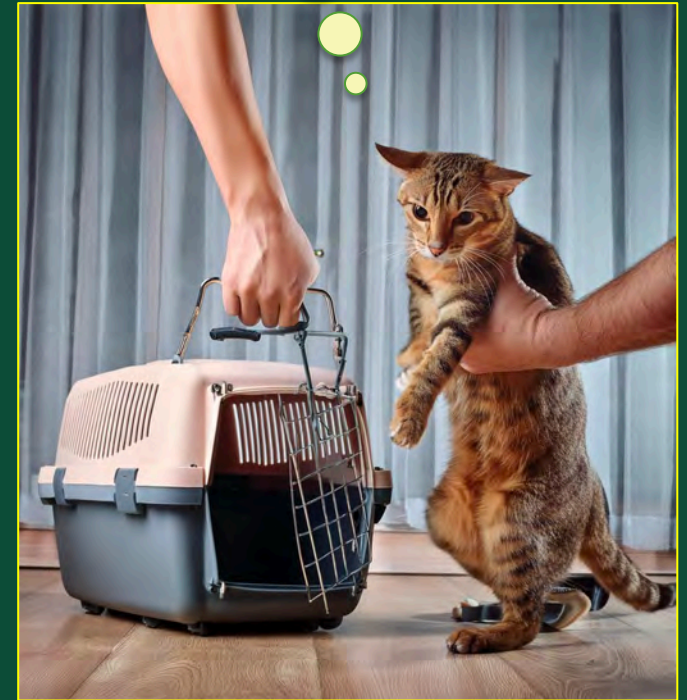
If Your Pet Is Not Cooperating

STAY CALM!!

Steps to take if safely possible:

- Leave escape route for pets, post sign on door.
- Leave carrier & leash.
- Leave windows unlocked, remove a screen, leave a key for Responders.
- When you are safe, call Animal Help Line, or use info provided in alerts

Nope!
Not going
in there!



Help for the Animals You Can't Take with You

Who can help you?

BEFORE an Evacuation Order

- Call on your network for help with transport and shelter.

Inside an Evacuation Zone

- Only Authorized Responders Have Access.
- You, or someone you assign, must call Animal Services to request help for animals inside Evac Zones.
- Check local emergency alerts, websites, and Facebook for additional information.

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 local Emergency Services alerts, websites, Facebook pages.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal "Buddy" Contacts _____

ANIMAL CONTROL _____

CART ANIMAL EVAC TEAM _____

TRANSPORT / HAULERS _____

Be Ready . . .



FIRE WEATHER BARN ROUTINE

Prep on Fire Weather **WATCH** days.
Turn Prep Into **Action** at start of Fire Weather **WARNING** and **RED FLAG** periods.

Visit Cal Fire's "**Ready, Set, Go!**" web site or your local FireSafe Council or Firewise Community site for defensible space and property access guidance.
Your home, barn, property, and vehicles should be wildfire-ready before a Fire Weather alert is issued.

This checklist is focused on your equine, large animal and pet preparations.

- ✓ Confine animals where they can be caught quickly.
- ✓ Stage halters, lead ropes, leashes, crates and carriers for quick access.
- ✓ Make sure all animals have visible ID.
- ✓ Fuel up vehicles.
- ✓ Remove bedding from trailers.
- ✓ Review loading priorities.
- ✓ Prep trailer ties.
- ✓ Load truck copy of your AEP, including animal care sheets and current vax & health records (including Coggins, if needed).
- ✓ Load Go-Bags and First-Aid kits for people & animals.
- ✓ Load feed, water, equipment.
- ✓ Load your Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).
- ✓ Stage transport rigs for a quick exit, and turn around without having to back up.
- ✓ Check in with your helpers and destinations.
- ✓ Confirm reservations.
- ✓ Review travel routes with all helpers & haulers.
- ✓ Transport all top-priority animals during daylight and allow time to return rigs to barn before dark.



RED FLAG SHELTER-in-PLACE PREP

If your Evacuation Plan includes sheltering some animals in place, complete all preparations BEFORE Fire Weather **WARNING** or **RED FLAG** begins.
More info at HALTER Project.org

SHELTER-in-PLACE CHECKLIST

- ✓ Have animal refuge areas prepared.
- ✓ Leave extra halters & ropes for every equine in fire-resistant container.
- ✓ Store feed in secure fire-resistant containers 50' (minimum) away from animals.
- ✓ Remove halters, masks, wraps, sheets.
- ✓ Braid or trim tails up to hock length.
- ✓ Trim fetlock feathers.
- ✓ Check for loose shoes.
- ✓ Increase humidity in refuge area.
- ✓ Add water troughs, top off all.
- ✓ Secure troughs so they cannot tip over.
- ✓ Leave gates closed and unlocked.
- ✓ Turn all animals out, but never loose in close proximity to roads.
- ✓ Close barn and shed doors.
- ✓ Deactivate electric gates and fences.
- ✓ Notify Animal Services of animals on site.



Be Prepared . . .

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Pet Evac Prep Checklist

When to PREP and When to GO

- ✓ The time to **PREP** for possible evacuation or sheltering-in-place is when there's a **Weather Watch** or **Warning**.
- ✓ These are the times to **practice your plan** with pets, family, neighbors, and your pet buddy network of helpers and destinations.
- ✓ **BONUS:** If you're prepared for a natural disaster, you'll be ready in case of personal emergencies, too!



PREP for PETS & PEOPLE

✓ Check all Go-Bags, Refresh if needed.	✓ Cash, eyeglasses, meds, chargers.	✓ Put bags where you can pick them up quickly.
✓ Pack enough for 5-7 days, minimum.	✓ Put all important personal & pet docs with Go-Bags.	✓ Fuel your car.
✓ Practice with pets.		

PREP for PETS

✓ ID tags on all pets.	✓ Practice using harness, loading carrier, securing in car.
✓ Check in with your pet buddy network.	✓ Practice with others.

On RED FLAG or FLOOD WARNING DAYS

This is the time to review your plan, confirm your destination, and **GO**, or be 100% **READY to GO**.

✓ Keep your phone charged & on.	✓ Confirm neighbor or Evac Buddy is ready to get your pet, if needed.
✓ Listen to radio & TV weather forecasts.	✓ Confirm that you have a place to go with your pets.
✓ Load Go-Bags into car.	✓ Confirm that you have helpers and transportation.
✓ Keep meds, etc. cool and ready to go.	✓ Check manual garage opener or park outside facing exit route.
✓ Confine pets in a safe, secure place.	✓ Plan to leave during daylight, if possible.
✓ Don't leave dogs tied outside.	
✓ Leave extra water for outside cats.	

Supplies:

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, store 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 and videos 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





Ready-Kit Checklists For All

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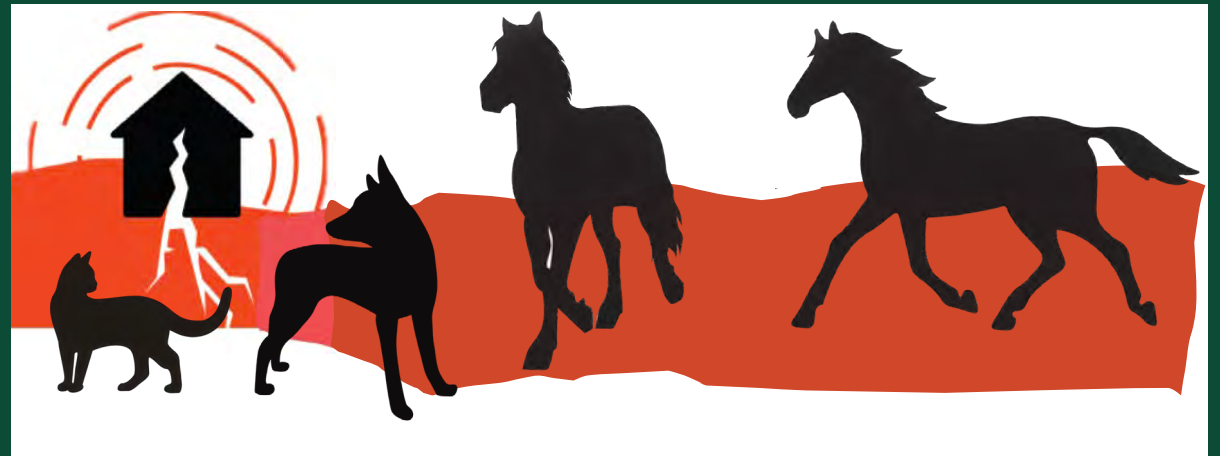


Earthquake Safety Awareness

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.**



Travel & Animal Sitters

1. Make an EAP for travel.
2. Review with your animal sitter.
3. Review with your Caregiver.

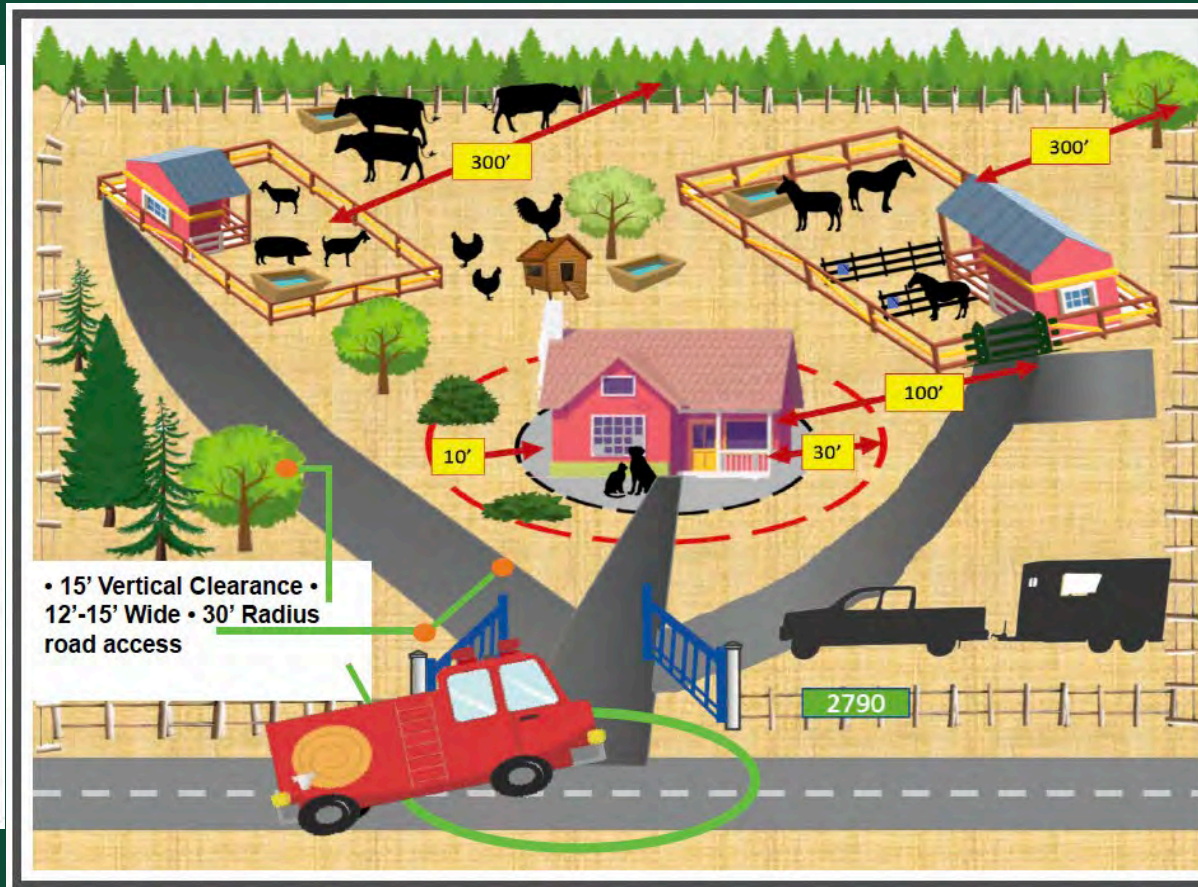


Safer Homes for People & Animals

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Around Your Home

- ✓ Keep area clear of anything flammable 5' around home.
- ✓ Keep gutters & drains clear of leaves, pine needles & grass.
- ✓ Keep pets, bedding, and toys away from heaters, stoves & campfires.
- ✓ Remove flammable doormats, furniture, cushions, umbrellas, etc. on Fire Weather days.
- ✓ Maintain safe property access for Emergency vehicles.



House, Barn & Pastures

- ✓ Keep your property **CLEAN** & safer for firefighters to defend.
- ✓ Keep your animals as far as possible from brush & forest.
- ✓ Store hay & feed as far from animal and human housing as possible.
- ✓ Maintain safe access and clearance for emergency vehicles.
- ✓ Put reflective address signs where clearly visible.

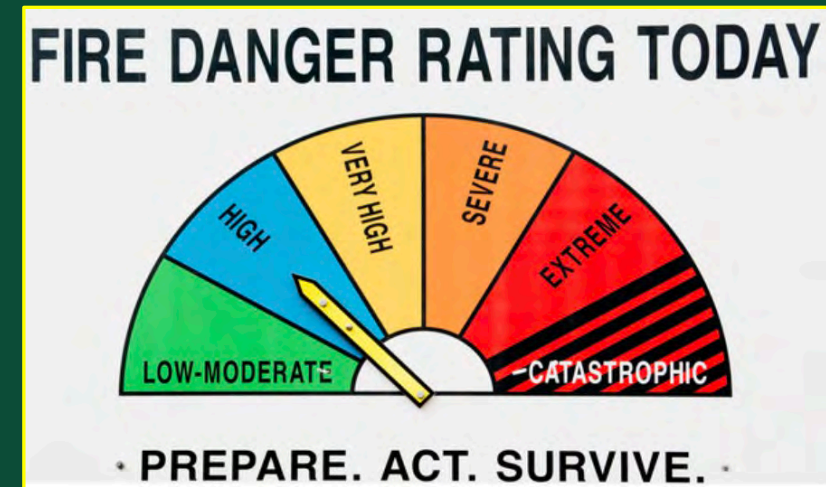
Planning for Equines & Backyard Livestock



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?



Evacuation 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!**



Plan & Prep for Calm Evacuation

The “Catch Pen” Concept

- ✦ Designate areas where animals can be kept comfortable & caught quickly.
- ✦ Streamline your loading plans.
- ✦ Works for pets as well as equines & livestock.

EVAC LOADING LIST

Applies to equines  and many other herd species.

Keep written list updated.



Include detailed ID info & photos.



Review protocol often with staff, volunteers, and clients.



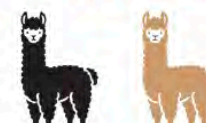
Practice with haulers and barn staff.



Never separate barn or pasture buddies.



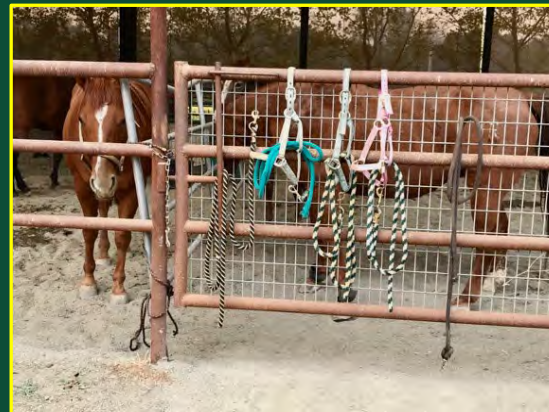
Never leave one of a pair or group alone.



Large Animal Evacuation Prep

Are They Ready?

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



SITE Prep for Shelter-In-Place

- 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 horse shoes.



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!

Hazard Awareness and Safety

Ranch Hazard Awareness

- ✱ Hay storage
- ✱ Vehicles, fuel tanks
- ✱ Structures, EVs, battery storage
- ✱ Pressurized tanks, lithium ion batteries, chemicals
- ✱ Trees, power lines
- ✱ Poor access, visibility, egress

DISASTER PLANNING

Evac or SIP?

Assess the Risks

- ✓ Human safety
- ✓ Infrastructure resilience
- ✓ Continuity of business operations
- ✓ Animal health
- ✓ Bio-Safety
- ✓ Product quality protection
- ✓ Public perception

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

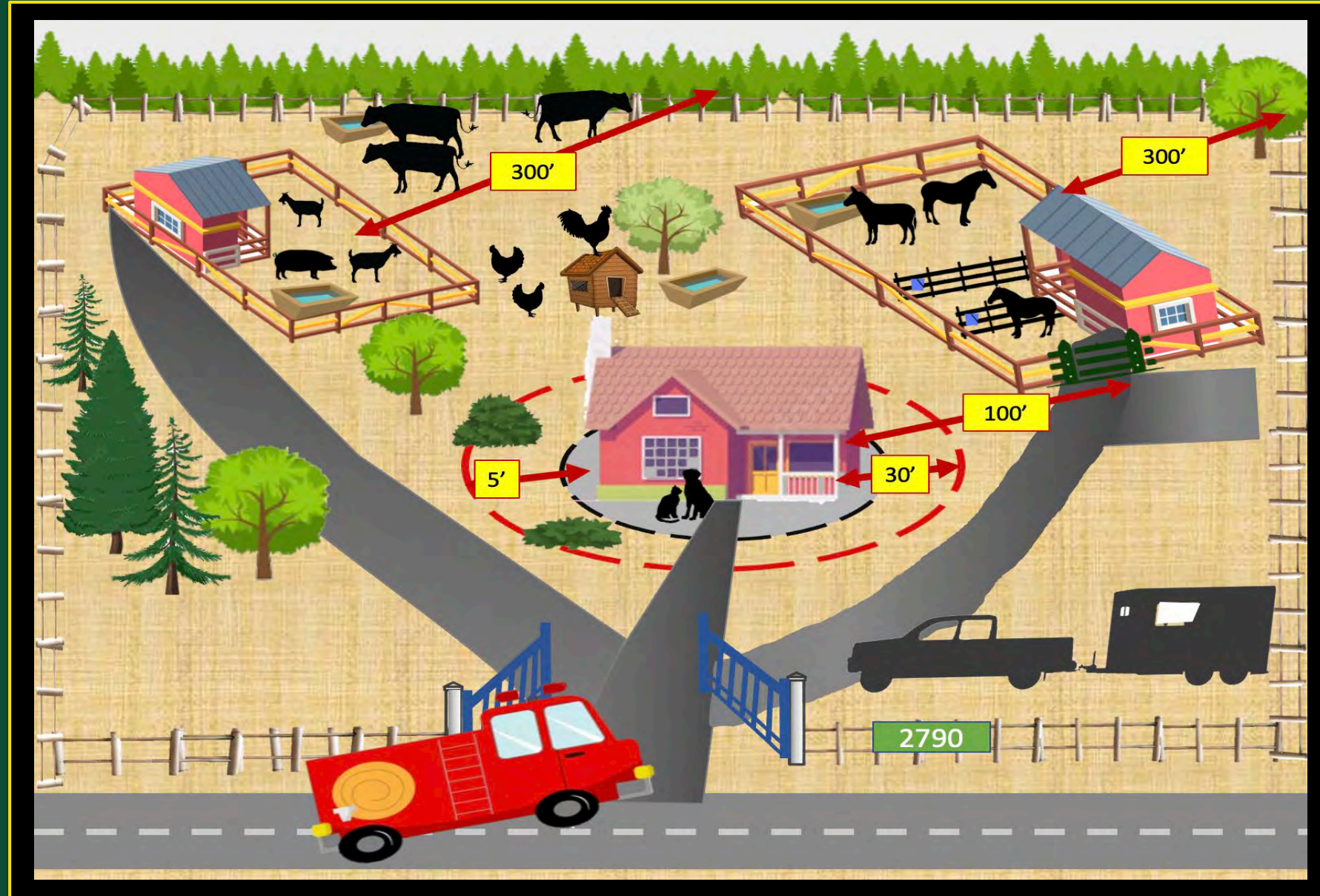
- Animals may be without care or clean water for several days.
- Animals might get loose if fences are down.
- Possible exposure to fire retardant or water air drops.
- Exposure to ember cast, smoke, heat, toxins.



Credit: 564FirePhotos

Defensible Space = Safer Animals

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Breathe

**Be the Calm Leader for your
Herd, Pack & Neighborhood**

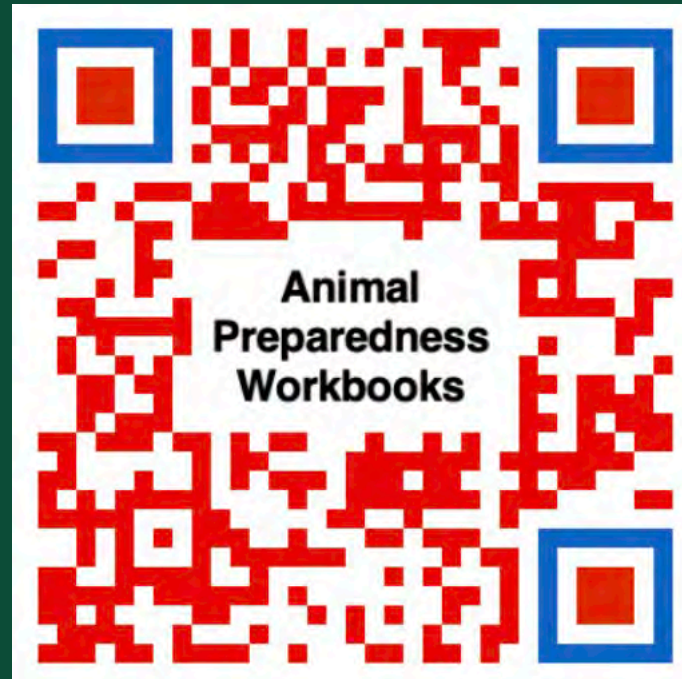


The logo for the HALTER Project is centered within a white rectangular box. It features the word "HALTER" in red, bold, uppercase letters, followed by "Project" in blue, bold, title-case letters. Below this, the words "ANIMAL DISASTER" are in red, bold, uppercase letters, and "PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE" is in blue, bold, uppercase letters, with a red plus sign between the two words.

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ANIMAL DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS + RESPONSE

RESOURCES

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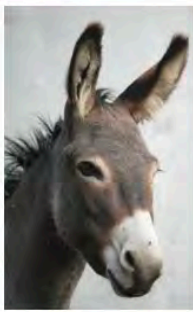
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for every animal owner.**

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

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



**FireSAFE
ANIMALS**



HALTERproject.org/firesafe-portal

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Halter Project on YouTube**

**Subscribe for seasonal safety tips
Share with friends**



KEEP CALM

Stay Cool

Look Out for Your neighbors

