

## **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROCEDURES**

### **KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR HORSES IN SOME EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

1. A 2 week supply of hay and feed should be available at the barn. (Feed is only to be used if you can care for your horses on a daily basis!)
2. If the barn water is supplied by a well, a generator is necessary in the event of a power failure.
3. If a stream or pond is located on your property, make sure there is **pasture access** to this water supply.
4. If water is not readily available to the horses, store water in 55 gallon containers (each horse can drink approx. 10 gallons of water a day). Keep in mind that one 55 gallon container will take care of 5 horses for only 1 day or 1 horse for approx. 5 days.
5. Depending on the emergency and the uncertainty of the length of time you may be unable to care for your horses, the best thing to do is to turn them out into an open pasture with several open bales of hay (50-100 bales, depending on number of horses) and with access to water (either containers or natural stream / pond). **DO NOT PUT FEED OUT IN PASTURE! HORSES CAN OVEREAT FEED AND/OR FEED CAN SPOIL CAUSING DEATH!!**
6. Please keep in mind that the most important thing you can do for your animals during a disaster is to be prepared and to keep yourself safe!

### ***Hurricane Equine Evacuation***

#### **Prepared by the AAEP Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Committee**

Head for the hills! When hurricane winds blow along the gulf and eastern shores of the United States, horse owners must decide whether to “shelter in place” or load horses, gear, and pretty much everything but the kitchen sink, and head inland, away from the greatest storm danger.

If you plan to evacuate with your horse, there are a number of web sites and contacts to help you. If at all possible, making these contacts well in advance of the emergency will make the trip much easier. Leave early in a voluntary evacuation period. If you wait too late, you may be stuck in traffic or not allowed on the road once winds reach a certain velocity. If you must make a last-minute search for shelter/stabling, consider some of the following as you make calls and prepare to move out:

- Have proof of ownership and individual identification of your horse.

- Be sure to describe your horse (stallion, mare, young unbroken, mare with foal) in terms that make special needs clear.
- Discuss fencing and stabling type—what is your horse used to living in and will he be safe in different/unusual type facility.
- If pasture/paddock with other horses, realize additional risk of injury in turning horses in with new “buddies”.
- Ask about health status: Know what vaccines/worming your horse has received in relation to the general status of horses being accepted at the stable. There is always some risk in commingling horses/livestock. Having your horse current on vaccination, especially Tetanus, EEE, WNV, Rabies and Flu/Rhino may protect in case of exposure to these diseases.
- Carry or locate source for feed and hay of type your horse is accustomed to.