



HURRICANE CHECKLIST FOR FLORIDA HORSE OWNERS

The Atlantic hurricane season is active from June through November. Although we always hope that most of the activity will remain offshore, we highly recommend taking precautions. Advance disaster planning for your family, pets and horses is crucial to minimize panic and consequences should a storm strike your area. Here is a checklist to help you prepare.

- Vaccines:** Ensure that your horse's core vaccines are up-to-date. These include Eastern/Western Encephalitis, West Nile, Tetanus Toxoid, and Rabies.
- State Transport Requirements:** In general, a health certificate and negative Coggins test are required to cross the state line. However, the state may waive the requirements when emergency travel is necessary.
- Evacuation:** Evacuation of flood planes and coastal areas is recommended. Evacuation must occur 48 hours before hurricane force winds occur in the area. Transporting your horse when wind gusts exceed 40 mph is dangerous.
- Identification:** Each horse should be identified with at least one, if not all, of the following:
 - A leather halter with name/farm information in a zip lock bag secured to the halter with duct tape.
 - A luggage tag with horse/farm name and phone number braided into tail. Make sure this is waterproof.
 - Photos of each horse as proof of ownership highlighting obvious identifying marks.
- Shelter:** If the pasture has good fencing and limited trees, it is probably best to leave your horse outside. Well constructed pole-barns or concrete block barns may provide safety from flying debris, but your horse may become trapped if the wind collapses the building. Other safety concerns to consider:
 - Photos of each horse as proof of ownership highlighting obvious identifying marks.
 - Keep your horse out of pastures with power lines.
 - Trees with shallow roots will fall easily under hurricane force winds and can injure your horse or destroy the fencing.
 - Do not keep your horse in barbed wire or electric fencing during a storm.

- Water:** Each horse should have stored 12-20 gallons per day.
 - Fill garbage cans with plastic liners and fill all water troughs.
 - Have a generator to run the well if you have large numbers of horses.
 - Keep chlorine bleach on hand to add to contaminated water if necessary. To purify water add 2 drops of chlorine bleach per quart of water and let stand for 30 minutes.
- Feed Storage:** Store a minimum of 72 hours of feed and hay (7 days is best):
 - Cover hay with waterproof tarps and place it on pallets.
 - Keep grain in water tight containers.
- Secure all moveable objects:** Remove all items from hallways, relocate jumps and lawn furniture out of harm's way and place large, heavy machinery in an open field where trees cannot fall on them.
- Turn off electrical power to barn.**
- Emergency Tools:** Keep on hand fence repair materials, chainsaw, hammer, nails, wire cutters, tool box, pry bar, fire extinguisher and duct tape. Be sure to also stock up on fuel.
- Emergency First Aid Kit:**
 - Bandages (leg wraps and quilts)
 - Antiseptics
 - Scissors/Knife
 - Topical antibiotic ointments
 - Tranquilizers
 - Pain Relievers (phenylbutazone or Banamine®)
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - Extra halters/lead ropes
 - Clean towels
 - Fly spray

UF | Large Animal Hospital
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA