



**Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association  
(TRVEA)**

**DISASTER PLANNING FOR HORSES  
AND  
THEIR OWNERS  
2026**

**Plan Ahead and be Prepared**

**Fires**

**Floods**

**Earthquakes**

**They Happen!**

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TRVEA will do our best to help find places for horses and livestock during a regional fire or flood emergency. We know some ranches and organizations that may be able to house and feed animals until the emergency ends. Owners may need to provide their own labor to care for animals; our volunteers may be able to help. We will work with anyone in the region who is evacuating.

For emergency evacuation information CALL AT ANY TIME:  
John Gabaldon 619-920-1282 or Kay McCauley 619-997-7212

If you need a trailer, we will try to contact volunteers with trailers. Please tell us the type and number of animals. Tell us if they load easily. Put your phone number on halter or spray paint it on animal's neck or side. You can also use a Sharpie and write your phone number on duct tape and braid into mane. Halter animals prior to pick up.

We can place stallions at some ranches, this may require owner/designee on site. If you can, please bring feed supplies. We will do our best to provide hay if you cannot. Some locations may require a person to remain full time with the animals. Others provide some care of animals without your presence. Tell us your needs.

## CHECKLIST — THE ESSENTIALS

### Evacuation Tips

- Know your evacuation route and alternate routes.
- Have your truck and trailer packed and ready to go.
- Have all animals haltered, marked, and ready to go.
- Review your plans at least once a year.
- Advise others of your plans.
- Post your plans and contact information in a conspicuous place.

### What to Take

- All of your animals
- Go-bag for you
- Go-bag for your small animals
- Wallet, credit cards, cash
- Maps
- Phone and back-up power
- First aid kit
- Tool box
- Grooming kit
- Animal identification papers
- Feed, supplements, meds (pack a 7-day supply)
- Buckets for water, grain, supplements, and muck
- Muck rake and broom

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- San Diego Humane Society: 619-299-7012 (main)
  - for all Tijuana River Valley (TRV) and all other incorporated cities
  - main tele answers during working hours only
  - go to [sdhumane.org](http://sdhumane.org) for hours of operation
  - Emergency Response Team rescues animals during a disaster
  - if no answer, call local police or 911 in emergency
- County Animal Services: 619-236-2341 (24 hour)
  - for all unincorporated county areas

## **PLAN TO REACT**

In Southern California we've learned that wildfires can occur and spread throughout the urban areas as well as the back-country. Some experts say our fire season is now year-round.

The San Diego rainy season runs from about November to April. During this time our rivers drain expansive mountainous watersheds. A relatively small amount of rain falling upstream can quickly result in floods downstream.

And, as a reminder, our river beds are usually full of dense vegetation that can also burn.

Let's not forget that earthquakes have no season and are unpredictable.

Some of the more recent devastating events:

- The fast-moving Cedar Fire of 2003 started near Ramona and in less than 24 hours moved 30 miles to the southwest and burned through the well established suburb of Scripps Ranch.
- The livestock evacuation center at the Del Mar Fairgrounds was itself evacuated to Fiesta Island in Mission Bay Park during the Witch Creek Fire of 2007.

- Heavy rains in December 2008 resulted in a huge amount of sewage contaminated runoff that flowed into the Tijuana River carrying with it vast quantities of trash and sediment. Nearly a hundred horses were evacuated. Many goats as well as horses drowned.

- The Lilac Fire of December 2017 began as just a small brush fire at the interchange of I-15 and SR-76 near Bonsall. That fire killed 45 racehorses.

- The 2018 Woolsey Fire started in the Santa Monica Mountains north of Los Angeles and very quickly spread 26 miles west to the Pacific Coast Highway. It burned to the ocean.

- Heavy rains and flash-flooding in January 2023 and 2024 caused many horse properties in South San Diego County to be inundated by runoff contaminated with sewage. Dozens of horses and some smaller animals had to be evacuated.

Those are just a few examples of real emergencies in which people had little time to think. You must be prepared to react. This takes planning and practice, even training. As we've seen in previous fires,

neither the suburbs nor the coastal areas are out of fire danger. And the same thing goes for floods. If you or your horse live near a creek, river, flood plain, or other low lying area, winter rains upstream can quickly have a devastating effect on the surrounding area.

Whether it's fire, flood, or an earthquake, planning is key. Start preparing weeks before fire season and winter rains. Know your roads and routes, both primary and alternates. Drive these routes with your horse trailer to become familiar with them and know if they're passable with your rig.

Consider the possibility of fire and flood happening at the same time. How would you get out?

### **KEYS TO PLANNING FOR AN EVACUATION**

- Be familiar with as many routes to safety as possible.
- Team up with a neighbor, you might not be at home or in town when an emergency strikes.
- Never padlock your horse's stall. Bull snaps and double sets of fasteners can be used for Houdini horses.
- Prepare a horse identification packet (microchip, photos, photos of owner and horse

together, brands, etc). Keep a remote but easily accessible digital back up.

- Keep an equine first aid kit fully stocked and readily available.
- Maintain a 7-day supply of horse medications on hand and ready to go along with dosage instructions.
- Make a prioritized list of the tack you want to take.
- If your horse lives with you know where you'll take him. Maybe it's the Del Mar Fairgrounds, a boarding facility, or a friend's barn.
- Have an emergency contact who lives outside of your area and not directly affected by the disaster. That person can keep your friends and family informed of your situation.

### **EQUINE PRE-EVACUATION CHECKLIST**

#### ***Vehicles***

- Safety check your trailer:
  - tire inflation
  - lights
  - hitch /coupler
  - doors close and lock
  - clean and fill the water tank
  - remove shavings
  - hi-viz safety vests
- Safety check your tow vehicle if it's infrequently used.

- Keep your tow vehicle's gas tank topped off.
- Practice hooking up your trailer for day and night-time evacuation.

### ***Documents***

- Review and/or update digital copies of your horse records.
- Review and/or update emergency contacts. Review your plan with them.
- Post your evacuation plan in a conspicuous place at your barn (tack room/shed for boarders)

### ***Evacuation Routes***

- Plan and drive evacuation routes. Ensure they're passable with your rig.
- Print out maps of your evacuation routes.
- Del Mar Fairgrounds are often a fire evacuation center. Know the way there. The fairgrounds are in a floodplain and are not available as an evacuation site during the rainy season.

### ***Prepare your Horse***

- Never padlock the stall, not even if you have a Houdini horse.
- Practice loading your horse in a trailer for both day and nighttime evacuation.
- Locate your horse's emergency ID device(s):
  - identity ribbon or ID tag braided into mane/tail
  - fetlock band
  - identification collar

- spray paint your tele onto horse (water-base is safest)
- use a Sharpie to write your tele on horse hooves
- Place your flat, cotton or leather halter with lead near stall gate. Mark it with your horse's name. Make sure the halter is in good working order and still fits your horse.
- For fire evacuation use a leather halter and cotton lead. Nylon/poly will melt.
- Mark the halter with horse's name, in white so it's easy to read by flashlight.
- Update horse identification packet and include medical and safety concerns (allergies, kicks, etc).
- Kickers should have a red tail ribbon for everyone's safety.

### ***Equipment and Supplies***

- Inventory and restock your first-aid kit.
- Check flashlights, lanterns, and headlamps, replace or recharge batteries.

## **EVACUATE NOW! CHECKLIST**

### ***Get Your Horse Ready***

- Name and tele on horse, (fetlock band, ID tag, paint)
- Put a neck collar on hard-to-catch horses.

### ***Pack Your Tow Vehicle***

- During a fire DO NOT put hay or other flammables in the truck bed.
- Evacuation kit map

- Extra flashlights, headlamps and batteries
- Horse supplies/equipment
- Hay, feed, supplements
- Equine first-aid kit
- Extra halters and lead ropes
- Dressage and/or lunge whip
- Rope
- People go-bag
- Small animal go-bag (food, treats, meds, toys, etc)
- Case of water
- Water hose
- Work gloves
- Fire extinguisher

## **SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR HORSES**

### ***Feeding***

- Feed pans, hay nets, clips
- Water buckets
- Hay/Feed (3-5 day supply)
- Water (10-12 gallons/day for a 1000-pound horse)
- Horse treats, because everything is better with treats
- Supplements for 3-5 days:
  - beet pulp
  - salt
  - supplement mix
  - electrolytes
  - probiotics
  - feed measure/scoop

### ***Cleaning***

- Muck fork and bucket
- Broom

### ***Grooming***

- Fly spray, masks, boots
- Grooming kit

## ***Health***

- Equine first-aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply)

### ***Equine First Aid Kit***

- Banamine
- Bute
- Oral sedation (ACP, ACE)
- Betadine solution
- Box of disposable gloves
- Blunt-nose scissors
- Hoof pick
- Tweezers
- Duct tape
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips
- Gauze pads (nonstick)
- Maxi pads
- Instant cold packs
- Antibiotic ointment
- Wound wash / sterile water
- Wound spray
- Towels
- Vet wrap rolls
- Gauze wraps
- Standing wraps
- Paper and pencil

## **SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR PEOPLE**

### ***Documents in Waterproof Container***

- Ownership records, identification, photos, etc
- Horse health records
- Horse registration
- Emergency contacts
- Trailer registration

### ***Communication***

- Cell phone and charger
- Backup power (solar cell, batteries, generator)
- Emergency contacts

### **Tools**

- Flashlight, headlamp, camping lamps, chem-lights, batteries
- Pocket knife and/or multi-purpose tool
- Wire cutters
- Bailing twine and cable ties
- Duct tape
- Face masks for smoke
- Safety goggles
- Work gloves
- Trash bags
- Trash cans with lids
- Sharpie

### **Essentials**

- First aid kit
- Non-perishable snacks
- Water (1 gallon/person/day)
- Maps (alternative to phone)

### **Personal Go-Bag**

- Cash and credit cards
- Identification and personal records
- Back-up prescription eye-glasses
- Toiletries (toothbrush, soap, TP, etc)
- Medications
- Blanket, sleeping bag, pillow
- Warm, dry change of clothes (including socks and underwear)
- Your dirty laundry (because these are the clothes you really wear)
- Extra hat
- Extra work gloves
- Towels
- Plastic resealable bags (to separate wet/dirty things)

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FOR FLOODING**

- Waterproof cell phone bag with lanyard
- Probing stick to check ground stability
- Tall waterproof boots/fishing waders
- Hi-viz safety vest
- Rain gear
- Personal flotation device
- Towels and rags

### **A FEW MORE TIPS**

Earthquakes can cause extensive damage to infrastructure and basic services. The water supply may be interrupted because power is out, not just because the supply lines are broken.

Consider reviewing the *County of San Diego Disaster Preparedness for Livestock and Sharpies and Hooves Make a Great Combination* for more information to develop your plan.

**LARGE ANIMAL (HORSES) EVACUATION SITES  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

*Please call ahead to confirm park availability before traveling to the park.*

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Site Amenities</b>	<b>Address and Contact Info</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Dianne Jacob Lakeside Equestrian Park	Dirt parking lot can accommodate up to 50 horse truck/trailers. 4 individual corrals available. 1 indoor and 1 outdoor arena.	11055 Moreno Ave Lakeside, CA 92040 Equine Event Services: 619-733-6920 Park office: 619-443-1474	Park is operated by Equine Event Services in conjunction with County Parks and Recreation.
Dos Picos County Park	Paved parking area can accommodate up to 25 horse truck/trailers. 1 medium parking area with no corrals.	17953 Dos Picos Park Rd Ramona, CA 92065 Park office: 760-789-2220	
El Monte County Park	Staging area can accommodate up to 3 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	15805 El Monte Rd Lakeside, CA 92040 Park office: 619-443-1474	Staging area is located across the street from El Monte Park.
Flinn Springs County Park	Paved parking area can accommodate up to 10 horse trucks/trailers. No corrals.	14787 Old Highway 80 El Cajon, CA, 92021 Park office: 619-561-0180	
Harmony Grove Village Equestrian Park	Staging area can accommodate 35 horse trailers. 5 individual corrals available. 1 arena and 1 round pen.	2850 Harmony Grove Rd Escondido, CA 92029 Park office: 760-745-4379	
Holly Oaks County Park	Staging area can accommodate up to 15 horse trailers. 1 arena and 1 round pen.	Corner of Dye Rd and Southern Oak Rd Ramona, CA 92065 Park office: 760-788-3326	

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Site Amenities</b>	<b>Address and Contact Info</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Oakosis County Preserve	Paved parking area can accommodate 6 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	12620 Wildcat Canyon Rd Lakeside, CA 92040 Park office: 619-561-0580	
Pine Valley County Park	Paved parking area can accommodate up to 5 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	28810 Old Highway 80 Pine Valley, CA 91962 Park office: 619-473-8558	
Potrero County Park	Open space area and parking lot can accommodate up to 40 truck/trailers. No corrals.	24800 Potrero Park Dr Potrero, CA 91963 Park office: 619-478-5212	
Rancho Guajome County Park	Dirt parking area can accommodate up to 10 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	2210 N. Santa Fe Ave Vista, CA 92083 Park office: 760-724-4082	
San Dieguito County Park	Paved parking area can accommodate up to 10 horse trucks/trailers. No corrals.	1628 Lomas Santa Fe Dr Del Mar, CA 92014 Park office: 858-755-2386	
Santa Ysabel Nature Center	Staging Area can accommodate up to 10 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	22135 Highway 79 Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 Park Office: 760-765-4098	
Santa Ysabel West Staging	Staging area can accommodate up to 5 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	29510 Highway 78 Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 Park office: 760-765-4098	
South Lane County Park	Staging area can accommodate up to 5 trucks/trailers. 1 corral and 1 outdoor arena.	218 South Ln El Cajon, CA 92021 Park office: 619-561-0180	Site prone to flooding during rain events.

Park Name	Site Amenities	Address and Contact Info	Notes
Star Valley Park	Undeveloped staging area can accommodate up to 24 horse truck/ trailers. No corrals	29902 Valley Center Rd Valley Center, CA 92082 Park office: 760-749-8852	
Sweetwater Regional Park Campground	Staging areas can accommodate up to 13 horse truck/trailers. 19 individual corrals available.	3218 Summit Meadow Rd Bonita, CA 91902 Park office: 619-472-7572	Additional 30 corrals available if not reserved.
Tijuana River Valley Regional Park — Active Recreation Site	Undeveloped staging area can accommodate up to 10 horse truck/ trailers. No corrals.	2570 Sunset Ave San Diego, CA 92154 Park office: 619-205-1680	
Tijuana River Valley Regional Park — Campground	Dirt parking lot can accommodate up to 10 horse truck/ trailers. 5 individual corrals available.	1942 Monument Rd San Diego, CA 92154 Park office: 619-205-1680	Site prone to flooding during rain events.
Tijuana River Valley Regional Park — Sports Complex	Paved parking lot can accommodate up to 10 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	2487 Sunset Ave San Diego, CA 92154 Park office: 619-205-1680	
William Heise County Park	Large open area can accommodate up to 25 horse truck/trailers. No corrals.	4945 Heise Park Rd Julian, CA 92036 Park office: 760-765-0650	

Please call ahead to confirm availability. Sites are available on a first come, first served basis. Feed and water not provided.

Alternate contact for all park locations: [askparks.lue@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:askparks.lue@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Adapted from County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, Large Animal Evacuation Sites list, February 2024.



## **TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION**

*Horses in Harmony with Habitat*

Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, TRVEA, a 501(c)(3) CA corp.  
c/o Driftwood Ranch, 2191 Hollister St, San Diego, CA 92154  
[trvea.org](http://trvea.org)