Hurricane Preparation for You and Your Horse

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"Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy."
MAX MAYFIELD
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

Overview
- Preparation before storm season
  - First Aid Kits
  - Health care
  - Travel
  - Preparing the farm
- During the storm – Pasture or barn?
- After the Storm

Have a PLAN
- Be prepared
- Emergencies are emotional
- Have phone numbers of the vet, insurance information, shipper if necessary
- Medical records and important documents in easy to find location
- Financial plan if necessary

Know Your Normals - Adult Horse
- Temperature 99-101.5 F
- Heart rate 28-48 beats/minute
- Respiratory rate 12-24 breaths/minute
- Pink gums
- 6-10 piles of well formed manure per 24 hours

Normal Neonate
- Temperature 99-102F
- HR 80-120
- RR 20-40
- Pink gums
- Nursing 4-6 times per hour
- Fecal output 2-4 piles per day, pasty
Be Prepared – First Aid Supplies

- Thermometer
- Stethoscope
- Flashlight
- Phone numbers
- Latex gloves
- Wound dressing
- Shoe pullers and rasp
- Phenylbutazone (“Bute”)
- Cold pack
- Poultice
- Antiseptics (Nolvasan, Chlorhexidine, Betadine)
- Soap
- Scissors
- Eye wash
- Hoof pick and knife
- Bottles of sterile saline
- PVC pipe for splinting

Bandage Materials

- Elastikon
- Vetwrap
- Gauze pads (4x4)
- Roll gauze or kling
- Sheet and roll cotton
- Standing wraps/quilts
- Duct tape

Emergency Tools and Supplies

- Hammer/nails
- Fence repair materials
- Wire cutters
- Tool box
- Pry bar
- Fire extinguisher
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Radio

Lessons from Hurricane Andrew

CAT 5, 1992 – Second most powerful hurricane of the 20th Century (65 human deaths)

Leading cause of equine death
- Collapsed barns
- Kidney failure
- Electrocution
- Fencing failure

Natural Disaster Preparation

Written disaster plan
- Don’t evacuate unless >72 hours
- get stuck on road

Practice loading
Locate farms or shelters in advance

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/cgi/adp/adc_emerg_manage_links.shtml

Horse Health Care

Current vaccinations
- West Nile Virus
- Eastern Equine Encephalitis
- Rabies
- Tetanus Toxoid

Consider EHV/Flu if Moving horses as well
Keep important Documents Handy
- Coggins test – for Equine Infectious Anemia
- Health certificate

Horse Identification
- Take a picture of each horse (and you with your horse)
- Label your horse-Luggage tag on halter
- Nontoxic paint/marker
- Clip information on side

Microchip
Brand/Tatoo

Evacuation Plan
- Flooding?
- Severe Winds
- Establish route/where to go

When to Travel
- 48 hours before hurricane force winds hit your area
- Winds > 40 mph---DANGEROUS

Lessons from our Past
Keep horses out of barns that are not safe!
Lessons

- Move horses from flood prone areas

Prepare the Farm

- Store all loose items
- Jump Standards, cups
- Become dangerous projectiles in high wind

Have Feed and Water Available

- 12-20 gallons horse/day
- Generator for Well/Fuel
- Large Garbage Cans with liners

Electricity

- Turn off power to barn
- Do not put horses in a pasture with power lines

During the Storm – Pasture or Barn?

- Pasture is recommended if:
  - Good fencing
  - Limited trees
  - Horses can get to high ground
  - No power lines or electric fence

After the Storm

- Inspect property, fences, pastures, barn
- Ensure all animals are present and safe
- Examine horses for injuries
Lacerations and Wounds

- Abrasions
- Partial-thickness
- Lacerations
- Full thickness
- Punctures

Superficial wounds can usually be treated on the farm without sutures.

Superficial Wounds

- Clean with a disinfectant and water
- Clip the hair to inspect more closely
- Abrasions on limbs may benefit from wraps to decrease swelling

Deep wounds/Lacerations

- May need to be sutured
- Ideally, sutures should be placed within 6-8 hours of the injury
- Clean the wound as much as you can and apply a light bandage
- Do not put any ointments onto a deep wound or laceration, complete evaluation

ALWAYS

- Call the vet IMMEDIATELY if:
  - Bleeding is profuse, won’t stop, and/or is bright red (apply pressure)
  - Injury is over a joint, tendon, or on the bottom of the foot
- Make sure the horse has a current tetanus toxoid booster (within 6 months)

In Summary

- Have a Plan
- Keep important documents and medical records accessible
- Prepare now!
  - Vaccinations
  - First Aid Kit
  - Coggins
  - Evacuation route

THANK YOU!

- Dr. Sarah Kirk
- Golden Ocala
- UF CVM