



Planning for Emergency Evacuation



We are so fortunate to live in the natural beauty of Nevada County. But there is one element that is a huge problem for us and that is fire. If you face imminent danger from fire, you may have to evacuate. The key to a successful evacuation is planning and it needs to be done well before the smoke starts rising!

This article addresses the issue of what to do for your pets in the case of an evacuation. Obviously you need to have a plan for yourself and your two-legged family members. If you don't have one, the following are good sources for information:

Fire Safe Council of Nevada County - 265-272-1122 or AreYouFireSafe.com

The County's Office of Emergency Services - 265-1515 or MyNevadaCounty.com

There are several aspects to an Evacuation Plan. You need to know how to get the information, where to take your pets and what to take with you.

GETTING INFORMATION

Sign up with the County Emergency Notification System which provides automated phone and email contact when there is an emergency.

County Emergency Notification System - If you have an ATT phone, your number is already in the system. For all other phone providers (including your cell phone) you will need to register. You can go to MyNevadaCounty.com but their input template doesn't work well. So email or call Victor Ferrara at Office of Emergency Services: victor.ferrera@co.nevada.ca.us or 265-1515

For information specific to preparing a plan for your pets: CVMA (California Veterinary Medical Association) volunteer Pat Ehlers - 477-6506 or 913-6506. Pat can give you advice about preparations specifically relating to animals

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO TAKE TO ARRANGE FOR A SAFE HAVEN

Check with any friends and relatives who live away from your area to see if they could keep your animals in the case of an emergency.

Make a list of boarding facilities and/or veterinarians who could shelter animals - get 24-hour phone numbers if available. Particularly check outside your immediate area - for phone numbers and directions.

Check with motels outside of the area for ones that allow pets. Make a list with their current contact information.

***Keep in mind that there may be a lot of people scrambling for a place to land. You may want to

include a list of places farther than you'd like to be but which may be under less demand. And look in all directions: Auburn, Marysville, Colfax, Tahoe.***

Note that Red Cross Shelters generally do not allow pets, except official disabled persons assistance animals.

Also note that our local Animal Shelters have limited space and will not be able to accommodate a big influx of animals. For that matter, the Shelters may need to evacuate, too!

PET IDENTIFICATION

Of course, you always want to have identification on your animals. But, in an emergency, this becomes critically important because they may become separated from you, either because they can freak out and bolt or because you need to leave them at a kennel or Shelter. If your animal doesn't normally wear tags, get some! Make them, if necessary!! Have collars with IDs in your Evacuation Kit and put them on before you leave home. Make sure identification materials are current and include your name and phone number(s).

Photos of your pets, particularly photos of your pets and you together, can be extremely helpful if you are separated from your animal(s).

YOU SMELL SMOKE!!

Or you have been notified, either by the County or by the media or any other source, that there is a fire.

DIAL 2-1-1 - They provide non-emergency assistance such as evacuation routes, shelter housing options, places for food & water, social services, traffic and road closures, and animal evacuation information.

LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATIONS

KVMR - 89.5FM or 105.1FM (in Truckee area only)

KNCO - 830AM

STAR - 94.1FM

KVMR is the Official Emergency Broadcast Station because there is a broadcaster in the studio 24/7. But all stations will be covering an emergency situation.

ON THE INTERNET

www.YubaNet.com - does a fabulous job of keeping abreast of "breaking" news.

www.KVMR.org - has a link on its Homepage for "Earth, Wind and Fire."

www.TheUnion.com - would also provide information

OTHER HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

NEVADA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES 265-1515

COUNTY OR CITY PERSONNEL - 911

Keep in mind that these lines will be swamped with calls. Do NOT use them unless you absolutely need to do so.

Enclose your cats or fearful animals. Put them in a room (bathroom?) where you will be able to get them quickly and easily in the event of an evacuation.

Corral your horses in a fenced area or in the barn. Have them haltered and ready to go.

Load your evacuation materials into the vehicle that you will take.

If you have a Safe Haven Plan for your animals, make contact with them.

EVACUATE!!!

There are various levels of evacuation: 1) you may be advised to be ready to go but not to evacuate (unless you so choose); 2) evacuation may be mandatory; 3) the last option is particularly scary: you could be told that it's too late to evacuate and that you should stay in place. You would, however, stay ready to leave in case conditions changed and the evacuation order were to be restored.

You will need to stay informed as to what your situation is.

RADIO - be sure to have a battery-powered radio (and back-up batteries). The radio will be your best source of information as you're evacuating.

EVACUATION ROUTES: Will be broadcast on the radio stations. There will also be law enforcement personnel out on the streets giving directions.

CVMA Volunteer Pat Ehlers will be "at the roadblock." Just get everybody and everything loaded up and take the route prescribed. You will see Pat and she'll tell you your options.

There is little question about whether to take your companion animals - Yes! of course! Horses, because of their size, present a bigger problem. The advice is **Do NOT leave your horses behind!** Put them in trailers and drive them out. If you don't have enough trailer space, you can halter the horses and lead them out with the trailer or on foot. Even if your barn is in a fire-safe location, still do not leave them! The smoke can kill them. Be sure to close the doors to the (empty) barn. Any loose animals are likely to return to the barn.

EVACUATION KIT FOR DOGS AND CATS

Use a sturdy container that is easily accessed and carried.

Plan for at least three days but pack extra medication.

1 gallon of water per pet per day - refresh every two months

Dry or canned food - refresh every 6 months

Manual can opener - for wet food

Bowls for the water and the food

Medication (in sturdy, waterproof containers)

First aid kit

Leashes, harnesses and/or carriers

Litter box and litter for cats

Blanket (to carry or cover fearful animal)

Garbage bag, dish soap, paper towels

Current photos of animals and owners (together)
Contact numbers for the vet(s)

If one or more of your animals has a current medical condition, include specific records and instructions in case you need to leave your animals somewhere other than where you'll be.

If you need to enclose animals in carriers, make sure they'll all fit in the car!

EVACUATION KIT FOR HORSES

15 gallons per horse per day

Hay and feed

Medications

Identification information and photos

Halters

Contact numbers for vet(s)

PET EMERGENCY MEDICAL KIT

Antiseptic cleansing pads

Antibiotic ointment

Hydrogen peroxide

Eye wash

Gauze pads and/or gauze roll bandage

1" first aid tape

scissors

tweezers

vinyl exam gloves

You can buy a "Deluxe" First Aid Kit online from the ASPCA for \$39.99.

See www.aspcasonlinestore.com