

**ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE
FOR PEOPLE WITH LIVESTOCK
(large animals such as horses, cattle, swine, llamas or goats)**



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

1. Hazards to bear in mind, given livestock experience in past hurricanes:
 - Debris – In past hurricanes, debris caused the most severe injuries. Many horses required euthanasia due to entanglement in barbed wire that caused severe injuries. Debris injuries were found most often in the hindquarters, because horses turn their tail to the storm.
 - Collapsed Barns – Owners thought their animals were safe inside their barn. In general, barns are not safe in a hurricane.
 - Kidney Failure – Due to dehydration, wandering animals were deprived of water for days.
 - Electrocutation – Horses sought the lowest areas, in many cases this was a drainage ditch. The power lines that were blown down during the storm were strung over drainage ditches.
 - Fencing Failure – Wandering animals, although unharmed during the storm, were hit and killed on the roadways.
2. Insofar as possible, owners of livestock who may be displaced by a disaster should move their animals to a safer area NOW, well before the disaster hits. Note, for example, that trailers can be too high-profile to withstand winds of an approaching hurricane. Since roads are apt to congested, consider giving yourself at least 36-72 hours to create some distance between your animals and the worst hazards. DON'T ATTEMPT TO EVACUATE DURING THE STORM ITSELF.
3. Permanently identify all animals. Options:
 - Microchip
 - Tattoo
 - Ear tag
 - Halter tag
 - Neck chain or plastic band
 - Ear notches
 - Leg band
 - Brand
 - Mane clip
 - Luggage tag braided into tail or mane
 - Clipper-shaved information in the animals' hair

- Livestock marking crayon, or non-toxic, non-water-soluble spray paint, or magic marker applied to the animals' side
 - Permanent marker applied to hooves
4. Keep a copy of identification information and photos of each animal with you and send a copy to a friend or relative who lives far from the disaster.
 5. Assemble and bring a box packed with halters, leads, tape, rope, tarps, and medical supplies, records.
 6. Prepare and bring at least a two-week supply food water, and medications.
 7. Shut off main electrical breakers, close gas and water valves, unplug appliances and turn off air conditioning
 8. Chain your propane tank to the ground with stakes and label it "propane." Label any hazardous material containers that may be on your property.
 9. For clean-up after the storm passes, store in the house a chain saw, ladder, axe, shovel, pry bar, come along, metal cable, block and tackle, wire cutters, tool box, grill, charcoal and fluid into your house.
 10. Consider evacuation of large livestock (horses or cattle) that are maintained in stables or in pastures of less than one acre in area.
 11. Prepare a place to release the livestock. The safest place for large animals to weather a storm is in a large pasture (over one acre). The pasture should meet as many of the following guidelines as possible:
 - Secure perimeter.
 - Perimeter and hazards (including buildings) securely fenced off with woven (rather than barbed) wire and locked gates.
 - Adequate water. Clean and fill any large, outside vessels (row boats, canoes, feed troughs, dumpsters) with water for animals left behind, The water will also help hold them down in high winds.
 - Free of exotic or poisonous trees or plants.
 - Free of overhead power lines or tall dead trees or large dead branches.
 - Minimal potential blowing debris. Tie down everything you can. Turn over and tie down picnic tables and benches or anything else too large to store. Chain propane tanks to the ground with stakes and label them "Propane." Label any hazardous material containers that may be on your property
 - With both low areas that animals can shelter in during the storm (preferably a pond) and higher areas that will not be flooded after the storm.
 - Securely fenced with woven (rather than barbed) wire.
 12. Release livestock onto the larger pastures, and then close stall and barn doors behind them. Remember: do not keep your animals in the barn to prevent debris injury. If your barn collapses – and there is no way to insure that it won't – large animals have no chance to save themselves and are likely to panic instinctively. Out in pasture, they may suffer debris injuries, but at least they will have a chance of survival
 13. Notify local authority of animals left behind.
 14. Shut off main electrical breakers, close gas and water valves, unplug appliances and turn off air conditioning.

See also:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), [Disaster Preparedness Resources](#), especially [Disaster Preparedness for Horses](#) and [Disaster Preparedness for Livestock](#).

United Animal Nations, [Disaster Preparedness Tips for Horses](#).

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [Preparing Your Pet for Emergencies](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), [Caring for Animals](#).

American Red Cross (ARC), [Animal Safety](#).

American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), [Emergency Pet Preparedness](#).

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), [Saving the Whole Family](#) and [Disaster Preparedness and Response Guide](#).