



Napa Community Animal Response Team

Red Flag Day Routine Checklist

Red Flag Warning

Please prepare today so you and your animals are [#redflagready](#).

Following is a nonexclusive list of things you can do to be [#redflagready](#). Think it through and prepare today. If a fire breaks out tonight near your home, or an existing fire spreads to your area, what should you do today to be able to quickly evacuate with your animals tonight in the dark?

BEFORE NIGHTFALL TODAY:

- * Fill your vehicles with fuel. Create a well lit evacuation loading area for large animals.
- * Have flashlights and / or headlamps with fresh batteries at the ready.
- * Have restraints laid out for all your pets and large animals. This includes collars or restraints that small animals can NOT slip out of if scared. See [Halter - Horse and Livestock Team Emergency Response](#)'s suggestions for crate alternatives. Each horse should have its own halter and lead rope hanging and ready near its enclosure. Luggage tags with the horse's name and your contact info can be attached.
- * Have food, crates, pet medications, veterinary records and other needed animal supplies staged -- or even better, put those in your vehicle now.
- * Hitch your truck to your trailer and ready trailers for loading. Don't forget to do a pre-departure safety check on your rig now (in daylight), including making sure your trailer lights are all working, including interior lights if you have them. If you have horses but no trailer, make arrangements with a friend or neighbor who can help. Have a plan for every horse. Have somewhere to go- a friend or relative in the next town or county.
- * Remove nylon fly masks, halters or other flammable items from large animals.
- * Make certain your animals have identifying marks on them. Put your mobile phone number on halters, collars, braid a luggage tag in your horses' mane. In a pinch, you can write your mobile number on a hoof with a permanent marker or write your mobile number on a large animal's flank with a livestock crayon, marker or paint.

Take pictures of all your animals with you so you can be more easily reunited if separated. Use those pictures to create animal care sheets which you can post in your barn and home. Include their names, feed plan, medications, veterinary contact and your cellular contact information. Laminated covers can protect these sheets in a barn setting. This posted information can guide a care volunteer who may be dispatched to your home.

TONIGHT:

- * Confine small animals to crates or easy to catch locations.
Confine large animals to easily accessed, well lit pens which could facilitate evacuation.
- * Follow Nixle or Everbridge for your area to be alerted to potential hazards. The Watch Duty app provides timely updates to local fire activity as well.



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- * Don't wait to be told to evacuate. If there is a fire near you or you feel threatened, evacuate. Give yourself enough time to get all of your family and animals away safely.
- * If you are advised to evacuate -- leave as soon as possible and take all of your animals with you.
- * Put your small animals in a crate, pillowcase or put on their non-escapable collar or harness before you open your door to leave your house.
- * If able, leave a note for First Responders that you have evacuated all people and animals.

IN THE EVENT YOU ARE FLEEING A FIRE AND CAN NOT TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU:

- * Put small animals outside of your house, their kennel or any other enclosure or pen. Do not leave them inside a structure that could burn. If you must leave them inside, leave the toilet seat up and a window cracked low open.
- * Remove large animals from barns and close barn doors or restrict access to the barn so they can not reenter.
- * Move large animals to an area away from trees, dried grass, hay barns or other areas with fire fuel. Arenas, gravel or paved areas work well. Rule of thumb, the defensible area should be twice the width of the tallest trees surrounding it.
 - If possible, attach a hose to a large sprinkler and irrigate the defensible area to improve burn over safety. This may limit on-site water access for first responders so do so judiciously.
- * Leave at least three days of drinking water accessible to all animals you have to leave behind. Animals can survive days without food, but must have water. Rule of thumb 20 gallons/horse/day.
- * Open all interior gates but **KEEP YOUR PROPERTY'S PERIMETER FENCE/GATE CLOSED.** Free horses on the road can injure or kill first responders or those evacuating.
- * If able, call 911 or non-emergent dispatch to inform responders that animals were left behind. This may facilitate a rapid response from animal control or Napa CART.

Taking some time in the calm of day to prepare for a possible evacuation can make the difference between life and death for your animals. Thank you for being prepared.