

CARING FOR YOUR HORSE

in an emergency

Storms and floods can occur quite suddenly and without warning.

To minimise the risk to your horses arrange for their safety by preparing beforehand. With prior preparation, you can ensure you have feed and transport to a safe location.

Before

When you are planning how to look after your horses in an emergency, you need to consider:

where you will keep your horses

is there higher ground away from flood areas

the best way to move your horses

where to store emergency feed so it is accessible, dry and above the flood level

practising your disaster plan at least once a year

if your horses are agisted, talk to the property owner about the local risks and their plans for when it may flood

clearly identifying your horse before an emergency using:

- neck band with name and phone number
- microchip
- halter tag
- luggage tag braided into the mane or tail

- clipper-shaved information in the animal's hair
- livestock marker or spray paint
- permanent marker on hoof wall

take a photo of yourself with your horse, so you can prove ownership

make sure your property has a Property Identification Code (PIC) number and your horses are listed as being on that property. You can get the PIC from Primary Industries SA (PIRSA).

If a storm or flood warning is issued:

put your plans into action early to ensure your horse's safety

move your horses to secure shelter well before a storm

make sure the horses have access to a safe food and water source

check local media for updates.

During

- check local media for updates
- do not rely on automatic water systems unless you have a backup generator
- never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

After

Take a few safety precautions to prevent further damage or injury:

- before entering buildings check for structural damage
- take extra care when entering a building as escaped gas or other hazards may be present
- make sure the power is turned off and do not to use electricity until checked for safety
- be wary of venomous snakes or wildlife that may be trapped inside buildings or disturbed by the flood
- if your horses have been without food for a long period, reintroduce food slowly and in small portions
- check horses that have been standing in mud or water for extended periods or for injuries
- ensure all perimeter fences are intact, the facility is secure and survey the area for hazards
- keep horses off waterlogged soils for two to four weeks after flood waters subside
- if your horse is lost, contact your local shelters, relief teams and emergency contacts daily.



Emergency kit

Prepare an emergency kit for yourself and your horses. You could include some of these items and store in a watertight container:

- protective clothing, boots, face scarf
- battery powered or wind-up radio and torch
- batteries for torch and smartphone
- current veterinary medications
- halters, leads, spare rope, hoof pick
- rug/blankets
- emergency contact list
- horse food and water for 3 days
- water bucket
- knife and baling twine, duct tape, cable ties
- equine first aid kit.

Equipment connected over the nbn™ access network will not work during a power blackout.

Make sure you have a battery powered radio and your mobile phone is fully charged.

