

**HURRICANE HOTLINE  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL**



**Humane Society of Broward County  
2070 Griffin Road  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312  
954-989-3977 Main Number  
954-266-6871 Hurricane Hotline  
[www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com)**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### PETS

#### BEFORE THE STORM

If you are not planning to evacuate during a storm, make sure that your home is prepared to withstand a hurricane. Remember that if you are in an evacuation zone, you will be required to evacuate, no matter how many pets you have at home. If you must evacuate, talk to a friend or family member who lives in a highly secure area. Ask whether their home would be open to you and your companion animal should disaster threaten. If you plan on going to a Red Cross Shelter, remember that only one allows pets, and you must be pre-registered to stay there with your pet. Make arrangements for your pets now, space is limited and advance planning is crucial! Create a list of boarding facilities including veterinary practices within a 100-mile radius of your home, and a list of nearby hotels that accept pets and under what circumstances.

Follow this advice and always be prepared with identification, vaccinations, proper collars and neutering. If you are staying in your home, remember to include pet supplies in your list of essential hurricane supplies.

Don't leave your dog, cat, bird, hamster or any other animal alone during a hurricane. And never leave a dog tied outside! Past experience has proven that a "secure room" and a few days' food and water do not mean safety for your friend. They usually mean extreme fear, injury, death or homelessness. Many people returned home after Hurricane Andrew to find their companion animals missing; never to be recovered.

- **Can I bring my animal to the Humane Society of Broward County to board during the hurricane?**
  - No, we do not board animals.
  - We do have a list of hotels and boarding facilities that do accept pets
  - Ask what area do you live in? (Give person two locations in their area or refer them to our website [www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com) and have them locate the area on the homepage which states "Hurricane Preparations for you and your pet.")
  - There is only one "pet friendly" shelter where the Red Cross services the people and the Humane Society of Broward County provides services for the animals, which have been pre-registered.
  
- **What are the criteria for the Pet Friendly Shelter?**
  - ♦ Currently only one emergency shelter is in existence, with very limited capacity. Residents in an emergency evacuation zone who would like to **pre-register** for the pet friendly shelter can do so in person at the Humane Society of Broward County beginning June 8, 2005 between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.
  - ♦ Space is limited and is on a first come, first serve basis to those living in a designated emergency evacuation zone.
  - ♦ **If you are planning to utilize the pet friendly shelter, you must bring with you in person the following items:**
    - Valid proof of residence in an evacuation zone such as an electric, water or cable bill. A driver's license will not be sufficient proof.
    - Valid proof of rabies vaccination and license tag for your pets.
    - The name, address and phone number of your veterinarian.
    - A current photo of the pets you are planning to bring to the shelter.
    - These photos will not be returned and will be attached to your registration.

- **What is the criteria for the Pet Friendly Shelter, continued**

Criteria to be allowed into the pet friendly shelter are:

- Pets must be pre-registered with the Humane Society of Broward County
- Pet owners must be able to provide proof that they live in an evacuation area (utility bill).
- Must supply a current photo of the animal.
- Pets must be up-to-date on rabies vaccination and licensing.
- Pets must be crated and will be housed in the same area as other pets.
- Pet owners must stay at the emergency shelter and by appointment only; provide care for their animals (i.e., walking, feeding, and cleaning up after).
- Pet owners will not be allowed to sleep or stay in the room where their animals are housed.

Contact the Humane Society of Broward County at 954.989.3977, early during hurricane season to determine if any space is still available.

- **I'm trying to prepare my pet for the hurricane, what do you recommend?**

- Bring your pets inside.
- Do NOT leave your pet behind or tied up outside.
- Be sure your pet is wearing current ID tags (Humane Society of Broward County, Wal-Mart, PetSmart, and Petco have instant ID tag machines).
- Stock up on a 2 week supply of water, food, newspaper, medication, cleaning supplies, paper towels, etc.
- Have a current photograph for each animal you own.
- Make sure that your pets are current on their vaccinations. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet. Cats should have "breakaway" collars. Nylon or leather collars for dogs...do not use choke collars or chains as these can get caught and strangle dogs.
- Two month's supply of heartworm preventative & other medications
- Favorite toys for comfort
- Towels
- Litter and litter box for cats/ferrets
- Trash bags for handling waster
- Have a properly sized pet carrier for each animal – carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.
- Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.
- If you plan to shelter your pet, work it into your evacuation route planning.
- List of emergency phone numbers.
- **DO NOT TRANQUILIZE YOUR PET EXCEPT UNDER THE ADVICE OF YOUR VET.**

- **I have a fish tank or aquarium. What do I do if I loose electric?**
  - The electrical power could go off and stop the aeration pump in the fish tank. If the tank has an adapter, the pump can be operated by battery. If not, make sure you have purchased a battery operated fish pump and automatic feeder.
  - These items can be purchased at Petco, PetsMart, etc.
- **How do I transport small mammals?**
  - Transport hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, and other small mammals in carriers that can maintain the animals while at the boarding location.
  - Make sure to take an amply supply of food, water, bowls, bottles, bedding, and other necessary items.
- **How do I transport birds?**
  - Transport birds in secure travel cages or carriers without water. Keep the cage in a quiet area. Do not let the bird out of the cage. Take a photo for identification and either leg band or microchip the bird.
  - Bring medicine, medical records, water, food, toys, newspaper/cage lining, and cleaning supplies.
- **How do I transport reptiles?**
  - If you do not have an adequate travel carrier, a pillowcase makes an excellent transport carrier for snakes but immediately transfer it to a more secure cage when you reach the boarding location. Bring an ample supply of food (especially if the reptile requires frequent feedings), a water bowl, and heating pad. To transport a lizard, follow the same directions as for birds.

## **Wildlife**

- Wild animals often seek higher ground which, during floods, eventually become submerged (i.e., island) and the animals become stranded. If the island is large enough and provides suitable shelter, you can leave food appropriate to the species (i.e., sunflower seeds for squirrels). Animals have a flight response and will flee from anyone approaching too closely. If the animal threatens to rush into the water, back away from the island or you may frighten the animal into jumping into the water to escape from you.
- Wildlife often seek refuge from flood waters on upper levels of a home and may remain inside even after the water recedes. If you meet a rat or snake face to face, be careful but don't panic. Open a window or other escape route and the animal will probably leave on its own. Never attempt to capture a wild animal unless you have the training, protective clothing, restraint equipment and caging necessary to perform the job.
- Beware of an increased number of snakes and other predators who will try to feed on the carcasses of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals that have been drowned or crushed in their burrows or under rocks.
- Often, during natural disasters, mosquitoes and dead animal carcasses may present disease problems. Outbreaks of anthrax, encephalitis and other diseases may occur. Contact your local emergency management office for help!
- If you see an injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, or you need help with evicting an animal from your home, please contact your local animal control office or animal shelter!

## **Livestock**

- **EVACUATE LIVESTOCK WHENEVER POSSIBLE.** Arrangements for evacuation, including routes and host sites, should be made in advance. Alternate routes should be mapped out in case the planned route is inaccessible.
- The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment and facilities.
- Trucks, trailers, and other vehicles suitable for transporting livestock (appropriate for transporting each specific type of animal) should be available along with experienced handlers and drivers to transport them. Whenever possible, the animals should be accustomed to these vehicles in advance so they're less frightened and easier to move.
- If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter (structure).

All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return. Your disaster plan should include a list of emergency phone numbers for local agencies that can assist you if disaster strikes, including your veterinarian, state veterinarian, local animal shelter, animal care and control, county extension service, local agricultural schools and the American Red Cross. These numbers should be kept with your disaster kit in a secure, but easily accessible place.

### **Evacuation Zones:**

If you live in an evacuation zone, the best plan for your pets is to contact a friend *outside the area* and take your pets there as soon as you hear a hurricane watch announced. You may then return home and wait for the possible evacuation order. **Only as a last resort, and only when you have pre-registered, should you plan to stay at the HSBC/Red Cross Pet Friendly Shelter.**

### **Non-Evacuation Zones:**

Even though your pets will be at home with you, they will still become very nervous and hyper when the winds do hit. If you have a pet crate or carrier they will do better in there as long as the family is present. If you are taking a direct hit and you evacuate to a bathroom or inside closet - take the pet with you and keep the leash ON.

### **AFTER THE STORM**

Beware of the "eye of the storm". This is a period of absolute calm and you may think it is all over. Do not venture outside until you are very sure that the storm has passed. Remember that fences will probably be down so do not let your pet loose until you check. We receive many lost pet reports from owners that forgot about this.

## **RED CROSS Information: Emergency Services**

### **Hurricane Evacuation Services**

In the event of a hurricane, **BCT** buses are called upon to assist in the evacuation of residents who are unable to make other arrangements for transportation to designated shelters. Transportation for residents with Special Needs will be coordinated through Broward County's Elderly Services Office and **BCT's** Paratransit service. To view the hurricane evacuation map and shelter list in PDF file format, go to [www.broward.org\bct\2004.map.pdf](http://www.broward.org\bct\2004.map.pdf).

### **Fixed Route Bus Service**

After an evacuation order is given from the County Administrator, **BCT** will end normal bus service and implement its evacuation plan. Residents in need of assistance must call the hotline telephone number that will be announced by the media. Residents will then be informed of the pick up points where the buses can be accessed.

### **Special Needs**

Residents with special needs due to a medical condition and who need to be transported to a designated Special Needs Shelter will be transported by **BCT's** Paratransit TOPS program. Individuals must be pre-registered for a Special Needs Shelter and may register by calling Broward County Elderly and Veteran's Services at 954-537-2888, TTY line at 954-537-2882.

### **Airport**

The Hollywood-Ft. Lauderdale International airport will officially close for business when the sustained wind reaches 39 mph. In anticipation of a hurricane event, flights that would normally terminate at this airport will be directed to terminate at the previous stop, insuring that the aircraft will not be located here during storm impact.

Once the storm has passed, damages, if any, will be assessed and based upon that, the airport will be scheduled to reopen when the safety of the employees, flight personnel and the public can be ensured.

It should be stressed that the airport is not a shelter. There are no provisions to provide for the housing of the public during a hurricane. Once the airport has re-opened, expect many flight delays. The public is urged to contact their local carrier for specific information on flight arrival and departure data.

## **Hurricane Categories/Hurricane Evacuation Plan HURRICANE CATEGORIES**

### **Category 1: Winds of 74-95 miles per hour.**

Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, and unanchored mobile homes. No real damage to other structures. Some damage to poorly-constructed signs. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.

### **Category 2: Winds of 96-110 miles per hour.**

Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage; some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs; some damage to roofing materials of buildings; and some window and door damage. No major damage to buildings. Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water two-four hours before arrival of the hurricane's center. Considerable damage to piers. Marina's flooded and small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings.

### **Category 3: Winds of 111-130 miles per hour.**

Foliage torn from trees; large trees blown down. Practically all poorly-constructed signs blown down; some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage; and some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed. Serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast destroyed; low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three-five hours before the hurricane's center arrives.

### **Category 4: Winds of 131-155 miles per hour.**

Shrubs and trees blown down; all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors; complete failure of roofs on many small residences; complete destruction of mobile homes. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering by waves and floating debris.

### **Category 5: Winds greater than 155 miles per hour.**

Shrubs and trees blown down; considerable damage to roofs of buildings; all signs down; very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors; complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings; extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors; some complete building failures; small buildings overturned or blown away and complete destruction of mobile homes. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three-five hours before the hurricane's center arrives.

### **Plan A**

Typically a Category 1-2 hurricane - Storm surge is four to seven feet above sea level with winds from 74 to 110 miles per hour. All mobile home residents, residents in low lying areas or beside tidal bodies of water, and residents east of the Intracoastal Waterway.

### **Plan B**

Typically a Category 3 or higher hurricane - Storm surge is seven to eleven feet above sea level and winds from 111 miles per hour or greater. All mobile home residents, residents in low lying areas or beside tidal bodies of water and residents east of US1 (Federal Highway).

## **HURRICANE EVACUATION PLAN**

Hurricane evacuations are ordered to protect coastal residents from the dangerous storm surge. The more severe the storm, the higher the sea level becomes and the further inland the evacuations must go. A word of caution: If you are NOT told to evacuate, it doesn't mean you're safe in your home. While the sea might not flood your home, hurricane winds can be very destructive.

### **The Evacuation Order**

The caller may be advised to evacuate while the weather looks nice. Rapidly deteriorating weather conditions will make evacuation hazardous as the storm approaches. Evacuation orders will be issued by the County Administrator. Local governments will work together to keep an orderly evacuation.

About four hours after an evacuation order is issued, the Red Cross will open hurricane refuges for those without a safe place of shelter. Callers should be advised to listen to local radio and TV coverage for shelter openings.

If the caller is relocating outside the hurricane-threatened area, they should carry a current road map and follow a route that stays as far as possible from the seashore, lakes, canals, etc. They should listen to their car radio for further advisories.

### **Update your list of personal belongings.**

Make an itemized inventory of your belongings including costs, dates of purchase and serial numbers. Attach receipts to the inventory sheet. Your insurance company will require proof of the cost of any item for which a claim is made. Dated photographs or video tapes of your possessions are also a good idea.

### **Safeguard your records.**

Keep a copy of your insurance policy and inventory records in a safe deposit box or with a relative or friend. If your property is damaged, it will be important to have quick access to this information.

**After the Storm:**

Take precautions if the damages require you to leave your home.

Secure your property.

Remove valuable items.

Lock windows and doors.

Contact your agent and leave a phone number and address where you can be reached. Take these same precautions if you are required to evacuate before the storm. Beware of fly-by-night repair businesses. Hire licensed, reputable, preferably local service people.

Important phone numbers:

Department of Insurance

Consumer Service Office

499 NW 70th Avenue, Suite 301B

Plantation, FL 33317

(954) 327-6027

Insurance Consumer Helpline 1-800-342-2762

The information for this fact sheet was provided by the Florida Department of Insurance.

## **Equine Emergency Information**

Provided by the Sunshine State Horse Council

### **The Lessons of Hurricane Andrew**

#### ***The leading causes of death in large animals were:***

1. **Collapsed barns** - owners thought their animals were safer inside.
2. **Kidney failure due to dehydration** - wandering animals were deprived of food and water for days.
3. **Electrocution** - horses seek the lowest areas; in many cases this was a drainage ditch. Power lines over drainage ditches were blown down during the storm.
4. **Fencing failure** - wandering animals, unharmed during the storm were entangled in barbed wire or hit and killed on the roadways after the storm.

#### ***Debris caused the most severe injuries***

1. Barbed wire entanglement and collapsing barns caused injuries resulting in euthanasia for many horses.
2. Infection was common in many lacerations and puncture wounds, as prompt wound treatment was impossible.
3. Don't keep your animals in the barn to prevent debris injury. Debris injuries were severe, but in many cases treatable. 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 if they can't follow their instincts.

### **Guidelines for Disaster Preparedness**

The first step is to consider your own evacuation. If you live in a storm surge flood plain or a mobile home, you must evacuate. Flood plain maps are available from your county government. Whether or not you evacuate, you may want to consider evacuating horses if they are maintained in stables or small pastures in urban areas where they will be unable to avoid debris and collapsing buildings. If you decide you must evacuate ... **DO NOT TRY TO EVACUATE WITH YOUR LIVESTOCK TRAILER UNLESS THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME!** If you cannot **BE ON THE ROAD 72 HOURS BEFORE THE STORM IS DUE TO HIT**, you could easily be caught in traffic and high winds. Traffic on the highways will be moving very slowly, if at all. A livestock trailer is a very unstable vehicle in high winds and high winds will arrive 8-10 hours before a storm.

**REMEMBER**, a fire engine, loaded with water - a very stable emergency vehicle - is considered "out of service" when sustained winds have reached 40 mph. Therefore, long distance evacuation is not recommended as the storm may move faster than you anticipate. Evacuating your animals out of the area may be too dangerous, but there are alternatives. **MAKE PLANS NOW** to move your animals to a safer area relatively near your home. Before hurricane season begins, make sure all animals have current immunizations and Coggins tests and take the necessary papers with you if you must evacuate. Locate a safer area within your county and make arrangements now to move your animals to this location - then assist the receiving property owner in developing a disaster plan! A **WRITTEN DISASTER PLAN** will help you and your animals survive.

## Equine Emergency Information

### **Develop a Specific Disaster Plan for Your Country Property**

#### ***Develop a Written Plan***

START WITH THE FARTHEST POINT OF YOUR PROPERTY AND MOVE IN TOWARD THE HOUSE, listing all the things that need to be done. When you write your plan, consider the following guidelines:

- Install a hand pump on your well **NOW**. You will never make a better investment.
- As you landscape your property, use native plants. Nature has evolved these species to weather hurricanes. They will be much less likely to uproot and become debris.
- **THINK DEBRIS!** Store and secure everything you can. Turn over and tie down picnic table or any thing else to big to store.
- Get mobile home tie downs to secure vehicles and trailers - in the middle of the largest open area away from trees and buildings.
- Your Family Disaster Supply Kit should include: flashlight, battery operated radio, extra batteries, fire extinguishers, chlorine bleach, blankets, clothing, ready to eat food, first aid supplies, water, prescription medicines, eyeglasses and cash.
- Have on hand a box packed with halters, leads, duct tape, tarps and plastic, fly spray and animal medical supplies including bandages and medicines. Store in water proof container and secure
- Provide the safest storage possible for: several hurricane lamps, lamp oil or kerosene, matches, gasoline, chain saw, ladder, act, shovel, pry bar, come along, metal cable, block and tackle, wire cutters, tool box and camping gear. (Don't Bring Flammable materials into the house.)
- Keep 2 liter soda bottles filled with water in the freezer. They can be thawed in the refrigerator when electricity fails to help keep the refrigerator cold. They can be used as a source of water as they thaw.
- Well water will not become contaminated unless your well is submerged by flood waters. City water becomes contaminated because purification systems fail. To purify water, add 2 drops of chlorine bleach per quart and let stand for half hour.
- Fill any large vessels (row boats, canoes, feed troughs, dumpsters, etc) with water. This may help to prevent them from becoming debris and provides a source of water for animals after the storm. Pool water and collected water should be kept chlorinated for human and animal consumption.
- Shut off main electrical breakers and close gas and water valves. Unplug appliances and turn off air conditioning.
- Chain your propane tank to the ground with tie down stacks and label it "propane". Label any hazardous material containers on your property.
- A two week supply of animal feed and medications should be brought in to the house and stored in water proof containers
- Photograph or video property and animals, and take film/tape with you if you must evacuate.
- Zip lock bags make good waterproof storage for photographs, important papers, etc.

### **DON'T GO OUT DURING THE STORM!!**

If you are dead or injured, you can't help your animals.

### **THE SAFEST PLACE FOR LARGE ANIMALS TO WEATHER A STORM IS IN A LARGE PASTURE.**

*It should meet as many of the following guidelines as possible:*

- It should be free of exotic trees
- It should have no overhead power lines
- It should be well away from areas that might generate wind driven debris.
- It should have both low areas that animals can shelter in during the storm (preferable a pond), and higher areas that will not be flooded after the storm.
- It should have woven wire fencing.

## **LONG RANGE DISASTER PLANNING**

### ***Fencing***

- The clear winner is woven wire. It acts like a volleyball net; in some cases falling trees don't even break it down. It helps stop debris. It doesn't pull apart in high winds. Animals are less likely to get caught or tangled in it.
- Board fencing blows down and becomes debris. If you use it, back it with woven wire.
- Avoid using barbed wire. It cuts horses to ribbons and is easily torn down by flying debris.
- Lay out your fence lines to keep animals away from power lines.
- Each year in May, replace rotten fence posts and make fencing repairs so your fences are as strong as possible for the start of Hurricane Season on June 1.

### ***Building Construction***

- Having a well built barn helps it from becoming debris. Never think it is safe enough to protect your animals.
- A simple, well strapped open pole barn with a flat roof or a hurricane reinforced concrete barn is least likely to blow down.
- Prefab trusses may not hold up. If you use them, make sure they have hurricane clips
- Roofing material should be roll roofing or properly installed metal. Shingles and tile become small lethal weapons which pastured animals cannot avoid. Large sheets of anything are more easily avoided by animals.
- Consider pre-fitted, properly anchored plywood or some form of hurricane shutters for all windows and doors. Roofs are torn off when wind enters a building. Taping only prevents flying glass.

**When any Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico storm is named, all Floridians should take it seriously, watch it closely and begin implementation of their pre-written Disaster PLANS. Review and update your Disaster Plan with your family on a regular basis.**

If you would like more information, please contact:

**The Sunshine State Horse Council, Inc.  
PO Box 6663  
Brandon FL 33508-6011**

**Animal Disaster Planning Advisory  
Laura Bevan FL Chairman 850-386-3435  
Cindy Ferguson Vice Chairman  
941-924-4849**

### **Vaccinations**

The very first thing to do and in many ways the most important is make sure your horse is up-to-date with a tetanus booster and has had a vaccination for encephalitis, commonly known as sleeping sickness. This disease is carried by mosquitoes and the height of infection is July and August, just when storm, hurricane and flood season is at its height.

This disease can kill both humans and horses, and should not be taken lightly. Horses should be vaccinated at least every six months, but most large stables do this every four months. See your personal veterinarian for details.

### **Neighborhood Disaster Committees**

Most horse owners live in horse communities. Contact your neighbors long before hurricane season, and organize your own neighborhood disaster committee. Schedule meetings at which horse owners discuss who has what in the way of equipment, concrete barns, flood areas, etc., and explore ways in which neighbors can help neighbors to accomplish a great deal. Contact your county animal disaster team and they will be glad to help you form such a committee.

### **Animal Identification**

After Hurricane Andrew, 80 % of the horses found carried no identification. This made the job of reuniting animals and owners much more difficult. Veterans of that storm compiled a list of suggestions to help ensure that your animal can be identified in the confusion that follows a hurricane. The following list includes a variety of alternatives from which you can choose:

- Take a picture of your horse with a family member in the photo as well. Then staple a copy of your coggins test to the picture, along with other information such as tattoos, microchip ID, special scars and any other permanent identification. Place all these items in a zip-lock bag, and keep them in a safe place where you can get to them after a hurricane.
- Purchase fetlock ID bands and place them on both front feet before a hurricane hits.
- Put a leather halter on your horse with a luggage tag attached showing the horse's address, phone number and owner's name and any medication information. Write any special needs on an index card; place this inside a small zip-lock bag, and wrap it around the side of the halter with tape.
- Take a second luggage tag with the same information and braid it into the horse's tail hair.  
**Caution: Do NOT tie the tag around the tail; this would cut off circulation.**
- Neck ID bands with the same information can also be used. Check with your local tack store.
- Using small animal clippers, body clip the same phone number your horse's neck.
- A permanent method of identification is Freeze Branding. For further information on this option, check out: [www.horseweb.com/kka](http://www.horseweb.com/kka)
- Do not put a copy of the horse's coggins test on the horse. Animal Rescue may not be the ones to find your horse. A coggins test is a passport out of state and, as we learned from Andrew, not everyone is honest.

One of the goals of Animal Rescue is to find loose horses and get them reunited with the owners as soon as possible. These suggestions will help tremendously. Remember, you cannot have too much identification with your horse.

### **Evacuation**

If you plan to evacuate in the event of a storm, have a destination and routes thought out well in advance. January, February and March would be good months to do this. Plan to leave 48 hours before the arrival of the storm. The worst thing that can happen to you is to get stuck in traffic with a trailer full of horses and a hurricane approaching. Hurricane Andrew tossed loaded tractor trailers around like they were match sticks. By the way, if you choose to get out of the area altogether, take all your animals. Don't take your horse but leave dogs, cats and birds at home alone.

### **Hurricane Shelter Stabling**

Emergency stabling is available on a limited basis. For a listing of stables, please call:

Sunshine State Horse Council - Searchable stable directory [www.sshc.org/evac](http://www.sshc.org/evac)

Marion County Animal Care and Control (352) 671-8900

Broward County Animal Care and Control (954) 359-1313

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control (561) 233-1201

The list of stables may change at any time due to the projected path and size of the approaching storm. Call those stables and find out about availability and any appropriate fees. Do not wait until the last minute to seek emergency stabling!

## Preparing for a Hurricane

Regardless of whether you stay or evacuate, start early to clean up your property and remove all debris that may be tossed around by hurricane winds. If you plan to weather the storm at home, here are some guidelines:

- The choice of keeping your horse in a barn or an open field is entirely up to you. Use common sense, taking into consideration barn structure, trees, power lines, and the condition of surrounding properties.
- Remove all items from the barn aisles and walls, and store them in a safe place.
- Have two weeks supply of hay (wrapped in plastic or waterproof tarp) and feed (stored in plastic water-tight containers). Place these supplies in the highest and driest area possible.
- Take two plywood boards and spray paint on one side of each board, "HAVE ANIMALS, NEED HELP." On the other side of each board paint, "HAVE ANIMALS, AM OK FOR NOW." Put both plywood boards with your feed supply.
- Fill clean plastic garbage cans with water, secure the tops, and place them in the barn.
- Prepare an emergency animal care kit (waterproof) with all the items you normally use: medications, salves, ointments, vet wraps, bandages, tape, etc. Place the kit in a safe place where you can get to it after a storm.
- Have an emergency barn kit containing a chain saw and fuel, hammers, a saw, nails, screws and fencing materials. Place this kit in a secure area before the storm hits.
- Have an ample supply of flashlights and batteries, and at least one battery-operated radio.
- Using camper tie-downs, secure all vehicles, trailers and maintenance equipment.
- Notify neighbors where you will be during the storm.
- Before leaving the barn, attach identification to all horses.
- Turn off circuit breakers to the barn before leaving. A power surge could cause sparks and fire.
- Do not stay in the barn with your horse during the storm.
- Place a supply of water and hay with each horse.

Remember, trees could be down blocking roads, and you may not be able to return to the barn immediately following the storm. Leave two buckets of water in your horse's stall.

## After the Storm

After the storm has passed, roads will probably be blocked or flooded. Working in pairs, try to locate your nearest neighbor. Here are some other post-disaster pointers:

- Be very careful when you venture outside. Live electric wires could be all around you.
- See to your animal's needs, keeping them as calm as possible.
- Carefully try to clean debris from the barn, and clear the driveway out to the road.
- Place one of the plywood signs you made earlier at the edge of your driveway, at the roadside, with the appropriate writing facing the road. Place the other sign in a clear area with the appropriate side facing upwards. Aircraft will be flying overhead, and this will help them determine the severity of the effects of the storm. If you do not have a severely injured animal, put the OK sign up. In either case, help will get to you as soon as possible.
- Watch for fire ants. Ants will look for the driest place to nest and will move from wet to high ground when their nests flood. Check your barn/stall walls and feed/hay areas. Ants will also seek refuge from wet ground on fence rails and tree branches, so take care when clearing debris after a storm.
- Snakes will also seek high ground. Do not put your hands or feet in recesses you cannot see. Snakes will also hide between hay bales and banked shavings.

### **Information Sources**

Marion County Animal Care & Control (352) 671-8900  
Marion County Office of Emergency Management (352) 622-3205  
Marion County Agricultural Extension Agency (352) 620-3440  
Orange County Animal Services Division (407) 352-4390  
Broward County Animal Care & Control 954-359-1313  
Broward County Office of Emergency Management 954-831-8740  
Broward County Agricultural Extension Agency 954-370-3725  
Dade County Animal Control 305-884-1101  
Dade County Emergency Management 305-273-6700  
Palm Beach County Animal Control 561-233-1200  
Palm Beach County Emergency Management 561-233-3500  
Palm Beach County Large Animal Information 561-793-3680  
Martin County Animal Control 561-287-1656  
Martin County Emergency Management 561-287-1652  
St. Lucie County Animal Control 561-871-5042  
St. Lucie Emergency Management 561-461-5201  
Identification Fetlock Bands 561-795-2466  
Mary Peters Large Animal Disasters 954-370-3725

### **Broward's Large Animal Disaster Planning Committee Leads Horse Registration Effort**

Provided by Mary Peters, Large Animal Disaster Planning Committee Chair

The beginning of hurricane season is a little more than a month away. Broward County's Large Animal Disaster Planning Committee (LADC) is leading an effort to encourage all horse, donkey and mule owners in Broward County to register their animals.

One of the major reasons why registration is so important is so that LADC will be able to plot all registered horses on a Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is a technology that is used to view and analyze data from a geographic perspective. This will allow LADC to better track its resources and efforts in the event of a disaster. It will also assist in returning lost animals to their owners after a hurricane or emergency situation.

To register, horse owners should visit [www.broward.org/extension](http://www.broward.org/extension) and click on the "Large Animal" button located on the left side of the page. Owners will then be required to create an account and enter vital description information for their animal. After the account has been established, owners will have the ability to update information and register new animals.

Horse owners are encouraged to still take the proper steps to clearly identify their animal prior to a hurricane or threatened emergency even though their horse is registered with the LADC. Owners should still spray paint their telephone numbers on their horse and use the other recommended identification methods. More tips can be found on [www.broward.org/extension](http://www.broward.org/extension). Click on the "Hurricane Tips For Large Animals" button located in the right column.

## **Important Phone Numbers & Websites**

### **Animals:**

- Miami – Dade Animal Services: 305-884-1101
- Animal Care and Regulation Broward County: 954-359-1313
- Wildlife Care Center Broward County: 954-524-4302 or 866-SOS-WILD
- Humane Society of Broward County: 954-989-3977 or 954-266-6871
- Humane Society of Greater Miami: 305-696-0800
- Pet Owners Alliance for the state of Florida: 954-486-0605 or 800-USSTRAY  
(Lost/Found Pets)
- Broward Large Animal Disaster Response Team: 954-370-3725

### **DESIGNATED POST HURRICANE EVACUATION SITES FOR LARGE ANIMALS**

C.B.SMITH PARK  
MARKHAM PARK  
TRADEWINDS PARK

### **Non-emergency police departments:**

- Miami-Dade County (305) 476-5423
- Aventura (305) 466-8989
- Bal Harbour (305) 866-5000
- Bay Harbor Islands (305) 866-6242
- Biscayne Park (305) 893-7490
- Broward County Sheriff (954) 765-4321
- Broward County Sheriff Mass Transit (buses) (954) 765-4324
- Coral Gables (305) 442-1600
- El Portal (305) 751-6455
- Florida City (305) 247-8223
- Golden Beach (305) 935-0940
- Hialeah (305) 687-2525
- Hialeah Gardens (305) 558-3333
- Homestead (305) 247-1535
- Indian Creek (305) 866-2446
- Key Biscayne (305) 365-5505
- Medley (305) 883-2044
- Miami (305) 579-6111
- Miami Beach (305) 673-7911
- Miami Shores (305) 759-2468
- Miami Springs (305) 888-9711
- Miccosukee Reservation (305) 223-1600
- North Bay Village (305) 758-2626
- North Miami (305) 891-8111
- North Miami Beach (305) 949-5500
- Opa Locka (305) 953-2877
- Pinecrest (305) 234-2100
- South Miami (305) 663-6301
- Sunny Isles (305) 947-4440
- Surfside (305) 861-4862
- Sweetwater (305) 552-9900
- Virginia Gardens (305) 871-3141
- West Miami (305) 266-0530

**College/University Police Departments:**

- Florida International University
- North Campus (305) 940-5555
- South Campus (305) 348-2626
- University of Miami (305) 284-6666

**Rumor Control Hotlines (in disaster situations only):**

- Miami-Dade Answer Center/Rumor Control Hotline: (305) 468-5900; TTY: (305) 468-5402
- Haitian Support, Inc: (800) 443-2951 (provides general human services assistance, community information and disaster information in Creole)
- State of Florida Emergency Information Line (800) 342-3557; TTY: (800) 226 4329
- City of North Miami Beach (305) 919 0892
- City of Miami (305) 579-1800
- City of Miami-Beach (305) 673-7222
- Broward County (954) 831-4000
- Monroe County (800) 955-5504
- Palm Beach County (407) 233-3500

**Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program:**

- Miami-Dade County (305) 513-7700; TDD (305) 468-5402
- Broward County (954) 537-2888
- Monroe County (305) 292-4591
- Palm Beach County (407) 233-3500
- Deaf Services Bureau TDD (305) 668-3323

**Reporting Downed Utility Lines:**

- Florida Power and Light – Dade: 305-442-8770
- Florida Power and Light – Broward: 954-797-5000
- Florida Power and Light - 800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243)
- Bellsouth – 954-780-2355
  
- Peoples Gas (TECO Energy) Dade: 305-940-0139
- Peoples Gas (TECO Engery) Broward: 954-525-0900
- South Florida Water Management District (flooding) 800-544-2323

**Emergency Management Offices:**

- Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management (305) 468-5400; TDD (305) 468-5402
- Broward County Emergency Management (954) 831-3900
- Monroe County Emergency Management (305) 289-6018
- Palm Beach County Emergency Management (561) 712-6400
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (800) 621-3362
- Florida Department of Financial Services (800) 227-8676
- Senior Connection, Broward County Elder Services (800) 963-5337
- State of Florida Emergency Information 24-hour hotline (FEIL) (800) 342-3557
- Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline (800) 646-0444
- Agricultural and Consumer Services Price Gouging Hotline (800) 435-7352

**American Red Cross:**

**Alachua County Chapter, Gainesville (North Central Florida)**

Chapter Headquarters  
352-376-4669  
Suwannee Valley Branch  
386-752-0650  
<http://alachua.redcross.org>

**Space Coast Chapter, Melbourne (Brevard County)**

Main Office (Melbourne)  
321-723-7141  
<http://brevardcounty.redcross.org>

**Broward County Chapter, Ft. Lauderdale**

Main Office  
954-797-3800  
[www.arcbcc.org](http://www.arcbcc.org)

**Capital Area Chapter, Tallahassee**

Main Office  
850-878-6080  
[www.tallytown.com/redcross/](http://www.tallytown.com/redcross/)

**Central Panhandle Chapter, Panama City**

Main Office  
850-763-6587  
<http://centralpanhandle.redcross.org>

**Central Florida Chapter, Orlando**

Main Office  
407-894-4141  
<http://centralflorida.redcross.org/home.php>

**Charlotte County Chapter, Port Charlotte**

Port Charlotte Branch  
941-629-4345  
Englewood Branch  
941-473-9891  
[www.redcross.charlotte.org](http://www.redcross.charlotte.org)

**Coast to Coast Chapter, Daytona**

Daytona Beach Branch

386-226-1400

Leesburg Branch

352-314-0883

Ocala Branch

352-622-3457

Crystal River Branch

352-564-8455

[www.daytonaredcross.org](http://www.daytonaredcross.org)

**Collier County Chapter, Naples**

Main Office

239-596-6868

[www.colliercounty.redcross.org](http://www.colliercounty.redcross.org)

**Greater Miami & The Keys, Miami Headquarters**

Main Office

305-644-1200

South Miami – Dade Branch

305-248-2024

Upper Keys Branch

305-852-9612

Lower Keys Branch

305-296-4033

[www.miamiredcross.org](http://www.miamiredcross.org)

**Indian River Chapter, Vero Beach**

Vero Beach

772-562-2549

Ft. Pierce Branch

772-461-3950

<http://chapters.redcross.org/fl/northtreasurecoast/>

**Lee County Chapter, Fort Myers**

Main Office

239-278-3401

[www.arclcc.org](http://www.arclcc.org)

**Manatee County Chapter, Bradenton**

Main Office

941-792-8686

[www.manateeredcross.org](http://www.manateeredcross.org)

**Martin County Chapter, Stuart**

Main Office

772-287-2002

<http://martincountyfl.redcross.org>

**Northeast Florida Chapter, Jacksonville**

Main Office

904-358-8091

[www.nefloridaredcross.org](http://www.nefloridaredcross.org)

**Northwest Florida Chapter, Pensacola**

Chapter Headquarters

850-432-7601

Santa Rosa County Branch

850-626-7333

Okaloosa County Branch

850-314-0316

Walton County Branch

850-892-6297

<http://northwestflorida.redcross.org>

**Palm Beach County Chapter, West Palm Beach**

Central Headquarters

561-833-7711

Clewiston Branch

863-902-1220

Glades Area Branch

561-992-9703

LaBelle Branch

863-675-8000

North County Branch

561-622-8003

Okeechobee Branch

863-763-2488

South County Branch

561-994-2060

[www.redcross-pbc.org](http://www.redcross-pbc.org)

**Polk County Chapter, Winter Haven**

Winter Haven Branch

863-294-5941

Highlands County Branch

863-386-4440

<http://polkcountyfl.redcross.org>

**Southwest Florida Chapter, Sarasota**

Main Office

941-379-9300

<http://southwestflorida.redcross.org>

**Tampa Bay Chapter, Tampa Bay**

Headquarters / Hillsborough Branch

813-348-4820

North Pinellas Branch

727-446-2358

Pasco Branch

727-862-8685

MacDill AFB Office

813-828-3156

South Pinellas Branch

727-898-3111

Brandon Branch

813-367-2832

[www.redcrossabc.org](http://www.redcrossabc.org)

**Governmental Agencies:**

- Dade County Building Code Compliance Office (305) 375-2900
- Broward County Building Permitting (954) 765-4927
- Florida Department of Insurance (800) 342-2762
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Tele-register for Assistance (800) 462-9029
- National Flood Insurance Program (800) 638-6620
- Team Metro (Miami-Dade County) (305) 375-5656

**Websites:**

- Humane Society of Broward County [www.humanebroward.com](http://www.humanebroward.com)
- American Red Cross [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- FEMA [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- Florida Division of Emergency Management [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)
- National Hurricane Center [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)
- The Weather Channel [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)
- Channel 10 News [www.wplg.com](http://www.wplg.com)
- Channel 7 News [www.wsvn.com](http://www.wsvn.com)
- Channel 6 News [www.nbc6.net](http://www.nbc6.net)
- Channel 4 News [www.cbs4.com](http://www.cbs4.com)
- MSNBC News [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.dogfriendly.com](http://www.dogfriendly.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.traveldog.com](http://www.traveldog.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.pettravel.com](http://www.pettravel.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.travelpets.com](http://www.travelpets.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.takeyourpet.com](http://www.takeyourpet.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.petsonthego.com](http://www.petsonthego.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.petvacations.com](http://www.petvacations.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.petfriendlytravel.com](http://www.petfriendlytravel.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.letsGOPets.com](http://www.letsGOPets.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.pets-allowed-hotels.com](http://www.pets-allowed-hotels.com)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [http://hotel-guides.us/](http://http://hotel-guides.us/)
- Pet Lodging / Travel [www.bringyourpet.com](http://www.bringyourpet.com)
- Pet Travel / Boarding (horses) [www.travelingusa.com](http://www.travelingusa.com)
- Equine (horses) [www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane](http://www.floridahorse.com/hurricane/hurricane)
- Sunshine State Horse Council [www.sshc.org/evac](http://www.sshc.org/evac)
- Town of Davie [www.davie-fl.gov](http://www.davie-fl.gov)