

HALTER Project

LEADING RESIDENTS TO SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

It's halftime in Summer of 2020, and unlike any time we've ever experienced. We're learning new skills and pivoting every day in our homes and workplaces. Disaster fatigue has already set in. But wait, there's more!

While we're all looking for creative ways to enjoy nature, connect with friends, and keep our families and animals healthy, we need to look ahead to fire and hurricane season.

Planning for natural disasters during a pandemic is definitely a new wrinkle. There is no playbook, but there are ways to reduce risks. We've gathered "best guidance" information from emergency managers to help you focus on your needs and how to plan for them. Take time to think through your evacuation plans and edit them to adapt to the COVID restrictions in your area. You'll be glad you did.

Responding to your requests, we're providing some resources for Continuing Education and Training for community organizations and volunteer groups. It's never been easier to learn and prepare from home, become a valuable resource, and be ready for winter and spring "hands-on" skills trainings.

Here's hoping you have a healthy, safe and fulfilling second half of summer!

PREPARE for EVACUATION in COVID

Steps to keep animals and people safe

During any disaster, keeping animals, as well as people, safe and healthy are always priorities.



A good Disaster Action Plan goal is always to **avoid emergency shelters** as much as possible, and, **during COVID, this is especially true**. The virus presents new and serious challenges for emergency managers, responders, and us. **The need for advance planning is greater than ever**, and having multiple plans will be stress-reducing, and possibly, life-saving.

Here are some ways you can plan to overcome challenges and keep your animals - and you - safe and healthy.

COVID-RELATED EVACUATION CHALLENGES

- **Shelters will be smaller and spread out in multiple locations**, which might include motels, campgrounds, community centers, and other facilities.
- If you don't have a destination lined up, you may be directed to an Evacuation Center first, where you may be required to have a COVID screening. This means your pets could be in the car for a longer period.
- Pets are at risk of "escaping" when a window is rolled down or a door is opened. Keeping them secure, and cool, are considerations to plan for.
- Animal Care resources may not be immediately available at temporary shelter

locations. Be self-supporting. The same goes for you: take enough healthy food, snacks and drinks for at least 36-48 hours.

- Your evacuation destination could be subject to a PSPS and you might be without power for a while. You'll need to think ahead about how to keep everyone comfortably cool, and your communication devices charged.
- If you are self-quarantined, or COVID-positive, your options will be very limited. It's critically important to have plans for a pet-friendly location where you can self-isolate, AND backup helpers to care for your pet should you need hospitalization or be otherwise separated.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

The value of early "Fire Weather" and "Severe Storm" warnings is enormous. Your plans can be confirmed and you can be ready to go, before conditions are dangerous and the challenges overwhelming.

Here's a checklist to help you plan, should you find yourself in the face of an evacuation Warning or Order:



1. Start by staying informed

- Keep your weather radios charged and your car radio tuned to local news.
- Make sure you're signed up for all your local emergency alerts, including alerts for your Evacuation destination.

2. Know where you're going before Evac Warnings and Orders are issued

- Emergency Managers will be providing Evacuation Maps with "Temporary Evacuation Points" (TEPs)
- You and your neighbors can plan ahead to meet up at a TEP or "Rally Point", and share resources.
- Make a neighborhood Animal Safety Shed stocked with supplies - a super resource.

3. Be Resource-Rich

- Line up several destinations where you and your animals can ride out the emergency.
- Arrange emergency transportation resources if you might need them.
- Keep all your emergency information and contacts in several places, including notebooks in your car, purse, and Go-Bags.

4. Update Ready-Kits for COVID

- Update ALL your GO-Bags - for people and animals - to include hygiene and sanitizing items.
- For people: You need extra masks, sanitizer, wipes, liquid soap, disinfectant cleaner, paper towels, toilet paper, and water.
- For Pets: grooming supplies, pet-safe cleaner for carriers, (NEVER use household disinfectants or bleach on or near pets!), lots of poop bags, pee pads, and water.

5. Plan for pet comfort and safety

- You may be staying in a motel, campground or apartment complex where your pets will need crates, kennel cages, litter & litter box, pee pads.
- While Animal Care resources will work hard to have mobile units providing temporary boarding and supplies to emergency shelter locations, they may take longer to get there



locations, they may take longer to get there.
Pack at least enough for the first 48-72 hours.



6. Be prepared to care for your animals and keep them secure

- Take enough pet food for 3-5 days, pet medications, harnesses, leashes, toys, bedding, cooling pads.
- When possible, arrange for friends or relatives in a safe location to store supplies they can bring to you if you're in a motel or VRBO. This saves car space!

7. Keep the family together

- You may have to go through a drive-up COVID screen before entering a shelter or evacuation center. Your pets could get out of their temporary home, and will be in unfamiliar territory.
- Make sure your pets are secured in the car. Anxious pets may jump through an open window.
- While evacuated, keep pets in the most secure place possible. Put a "Pet Inside" sign on the door.
- Get pets microchipped now. Make sure their chip info is current. Have ID on everyone.

8. Planning ahead will help you stay calmer, which will help both you and your animals stay safe and healthier

- Ask your veterinarian about calming meds to have on hand for your pets.



9. If you have equines or livestock, be prepared to observe strict COVID safety at Emergency Large Animal Shelters

- To minimize COVID risks, Staff at Emergency Shelters may be limited. Help our Animal Response resources!
- Follow instructions and arrive prepared to care for your animals while following safe distancing and hygiene procedures, including wearing face coverings.
- Try to have everything you need for at least the first 48-72 hours, such as: Feed, your own hose and buckets, grooming supplies, muck-out equipment, medications, first-aid kit, ID and stall cards.

10. Know How to Request Help

- Don't wait! If you need help, call your local Animal Care and Control agency, or the "Emergency Hotline" or "Warmline" number posted by Sheriff, Fire Agency, or local Office of Emergency Services, (OES).
- Resources can respond faster and more safely BEFORE Evacuation Orders are issued, but if your animals are sheltered in place inside an Evac area, request a "Welfare Check" from authorized agency responders.
- Don't post a call for help on Facebook- that puts responders and animals at risk.

There's no way to sugar-coat this: these are challenging times. **We are our own best resources.** We can do this - working together. Reach out to neighbors, your riding club or dog-walking group. Find out which members of your book club have pets! If you can be a resource, contact your local animal shelter or Humane Society, or COPE group or CART (Community Animal Response Team).

3 Evacuation Levels and Necessary Actions by Residents

LEVEL 1

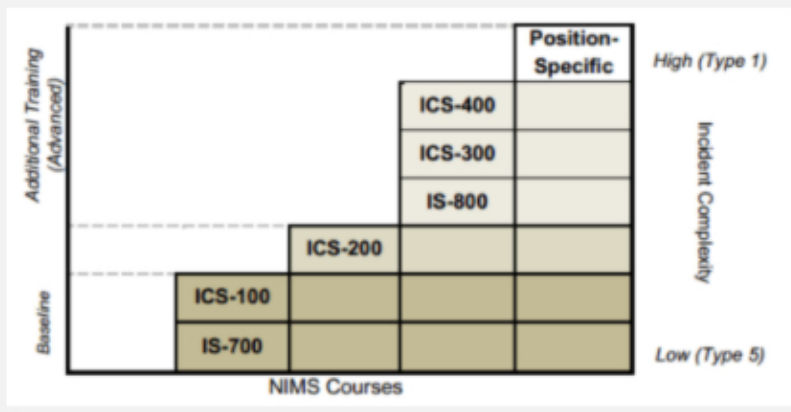
LEVEL 2

<p>LEVEL 1 EVACUATION or PROTECTION ALERT: A wildfire threat is in your area. Consider planning and/or packing, in the event an evacuation becomes necessary.</p>	<p>LEVEL 3 EVACUATION REQUEST or ORDER: Occupants of the affected area(s) are asked to leave within a specified time period, by pre-designated route(s). Perimeter roadblocks are typically established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take your family, pets, and necessary items including medications and important papers and evacuate. - Check in with your local Red Cross shelter, (even if you don't intend to stay there), to let them know where you will be in case your family is looking for you. - Drive with your lights on, safely and SLOWLY remaining aware of your surroundings as you leave.
<p>LEVEL 2 EVACUATION WARNING or NOTICE: High probability of a need to evacuate. Prepare now by packing necessary items and preparing your family, pets, and vehicle for potential departure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Move persons with mobility or medical issues - Move livestock and pets to a safe place 	

RESOURCES

HALTERproject.org	Local Emergency Services websites
Home & Ranch Readiness Summit	Local Animal Services websites
AVMA	CDC
CAL FIRE	

TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANIMAL DISASTER VOLUNTEERS



FEMA Emergency Management Institute Online:
[Incident Command System \(ICS\) Resource Center](#)

[Red Rover](#)

ANIMAL SEARCH & RESCUE
[ResQFAST](#)
[Huff Technical Training](#)
[Code 3 Associates](#)
 TLAFR - Technical Large Animal

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS
 Your local Volunteer Volunteer Bureau
 Your local CERT or NERT
 Your local CART (Community Animal Response Team)

HALTER Project

**LEADING RESIDENTS TO
SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS**

The HALTER Project has 2 missions, both focused on fostering community-agency engagement: To support training that helps first responders and volunteers respond safely to emergencies involving animals; And, to provide resources to individuals and communities that encourage emergency and disaster preparedness for people and animals.

Contact us at rescue@halterfund.org www.HALTERproject.org

[Sign up for our newsletter to stay up to date with events and news.](#)