

## **Evacuation Preparation and Plan for Grandview Estates Horse Owners**

If a fire threatens Grandview Estates, what will you do with your horses? Best to think about it now, before it is too late. Maybe you are fortunate enough to have your own truck and trailer to take care of your own livestock. Do you have a plan if you are not at home? What if you are on vacation? What do you do then? The answer is be prepared.

Here is some information to think about and all input is welcome. When it is all said and done, if our animals are all safe, we succeeded. But, we need to be prepared.

### **Prior Preparation.**

1. Train your horses to load. Trying to load an untrained horse when stress is high can be dangerous and time consuming. Contact other owners in Grandview to see if they can help you with your horses. Do yourself and your animals a huge favor and get them prepared ahead of time. Most of us involved with this initiative would be happy to help you train your horses to load.
2. Have your horses micro-chipped or at least have ID tags on your horses halters. Make sure your contact information is on the halters. Your horse will have your contact information on him!
3. Keep evacuation gear in an area close to the horses. If someone goes to get your horses, have halters and leads in plain sight and ready to use.
4. If you are evacuating your own animals and IF you have time, include feed, buckets, halters and leads. If you have room in your trailer for another horse or two and would help evacuate, please let us know or work out an arrangement with someone in need.
5. Make advance arrangements with friends and neighbors. Depending on where the fire is and the direction it is travelling, one side of the subdivision may be affected and another not. Contact the individuals listed below to see if they have space or if evacuees should take animals to our open space area. Make sure friends and neighbors have your cell and home phone numbers.
6. Some neighbors may have room for your horses in an arena or a round pen. You may need to move them out of immediate danger. Think ahead.
7. If you are going to have to make several trips, don't wait until the last evacuate order is issued. Start moving animals out early and give yourself and those helping move your animals enough time. It is possible if you wait too long, you will not be allowed back in. Use common sense. Think about moving your animals to a staging area early for later transport outside the subdivision.
8. If the fire is inside the borders of Grandview Estates, know the various routes to your home or be able to get directions to where your animals are located. Some roads may be closed, so have an alternate route in mind. You could be moving your animals on foot!
9. As we all get familiar with a plan, we can assign duties, in advance, to the various people who will be helping evacuate the horses. If people know what is expected, things will go smoothly.
10. We need to update our plan and share it so that everyone knows whom to call and when. We can include anyone who wants to be included.
11. Don't wait until the emergency starts to look for a way to move your horses. Get involved now.

**Records To Take With You.** Be able to identify your horses. Take pictures or videos and have written descriptions. Keep photos of your horses, health records, brand inspections, registration papers, and other important documents in a safe place and keep another set with you.

**Keep your truck and trailer hooked up.** Make sure your truck and trailer are in good working order, packed with needed supplies, hooked up and ready to go. Do not use your horse trailer as a storage unit – it takes too long to unload in an emergency. If you do not own a trailer, make advance arrangements with friends, neighbors, or a local hauler who can be contacted at a moment's notice to help move your horses.



**Extra Truck and Trailer.** If you have an extra truck and/or trailer that you would loan out during an evacuation, let us know. I am sure we could find someone to drive an extra rig. Let us know if you have a rig or can drive one and I will include your name/number on the plan.

**Staging Area for Grandview Horses.** If our open space area between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets next to Lincoln Avenue is outside the threat area, horses can be taken there and subsequently trailed out of the subdivision. This area is completely fenced. There are two locations to enter with bars allowing access into the space. If you put horses in there, make sure that both openings are roped off so horses cannot get out. There is also a creek there and so there is a water source. I am only suggesting using this area as a staging area in the event evacuation is inevitable. People with trucks and trailers can pick up horses here (or whatever location is safe to use) and transport the animals to holding facilities.

If horses are evacuated to a community rescue site or there is a chance he will be turned loose with other horses, have some type of identification on the horse. An identification tag on the halter will work, but microchips, brands or tattoos are other permanent forms of identification. Make sure your emergency contact information is included on an ID tag.

**Transport.** If you are transporting horses that are not your own, make sure you get the owners name, address, and contact information. When you drop the animals off, especially if it is a community place, you may need to leave that information with the facility coordinators. Let the owners know, if possible, that you and their animals arrived at the safe haven safely and where that is!

**Douglas County Non-Emergency:** Douglas County Fairgrounds may open it's facilities to accommodate evacuees as was done during the Hayman and the Burning Tree fires. Call Douglas County non-emergency at 303-660-7500 to ask where animals can be taken.

**Grandview Estates Volunteers:** Here are some names and phone numbers of people who are willing to move (M), transport(T), and/or handle (H) animals in the event you cannot or are not home at the time.

Debra Sherwood CP: 303-378-6183 (M, T, and H)

Rhonda Lierman CP: 303-667-4308 (M, T, and H)

**Hay and Feed Considerations.** Time permitting, pack enough hay, feed, medications, supplements and water (if needed) for several days. Extra buckets should be already packed in the trucks/trailers. Use a permanent marker to write your name on your feed bags and buckets. You have a better chance of getting buckets back if your name is on them. Requests for donations may also be issued. Many of us made hay donations during the Hayman fire. I took have to the fairgrounds where many of the animals were taken. I also signed up to help clean stalls, feed, etc.

#### **What Not To Do.**

1. **Doing nothing is not an option. If your animals are at risk, walk them to the staging area for transport. Or, help a friend or neighbor.**
2. **Do not open the gates and let your horses run free unless there is an immediate threat. Try to contain them and walk them away from the threat.**
3. **Do not tie your horses to one another. Someone actually did this during the Hayman fire because he wanted his four horses to stay together. By the grace of God, they did not get hurt. What a miracle.**
4. **Don't think your horses are safe because they are in a dirt paddock. If fire doesn't kill them, the smoke could severely harm them. Embers or hot ashes could burn their hair.**

**Recent Grandview Estates Fires:** In the past ten – fifteen years, there have been several fires. Two were on the east side of Grandview that burned up to the fence line. More recently, there was a grass fire at a house on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, between Dogwood and Elm. For us, it is not a matter of if but only when. As dry as it is this year, our fire threat is very real.