



Horses and bushfires

Have a bushfire plan

It's important to have a plan of action for how you will keep your horses safe during a bushfire. Starting to develop your bushfire plan could be as simple as having a conversation with your household, making sure that everyone knows:

- what your triggers are for evacuation or moving horses to safer areas (high fire risk days, emergency alerts)
- evacuation routes, planning for fire travelling in several possible directions
- where horses can be agisted during a fire, including friends and relatives, showgrounds, saleyards, racetracks or pony or riding clubs
- how you will protect horses if they are unable to be evacuated, such as moving to paddocks with no vegetation or overhead power lines.

Make an emergency kit

On high fire risk days, assemble essentials to take with you in case you must evacuate, including:

- at least three days of feed
- halters and leads
- first aid kit and any medications

Prepare your property

- Ensure your horses always have a water supply that will last them at least five days, even if you expect to return home that evening.

- Have a map of your property with gates, food and water locations marked in an easy to find place, in case someone has to move your horse for you.
- Remove rugs, halters and fly veils from horses on high fire risk days as these often melt and cause burns during fires
- Don't shut your horse in the stable on high fire risk days.
- Ensure your horse float is roadworthy and easily accessible at all times.

Evacuate as early as possible

Horses instinctively react to extreme conditions such as fire with nervousness and panic, and may become aggressive or resist capture if you wait until a fire is close before evacuating.

Remember: Do not cut fences or leave external property gates open during a fire – this can pose a safety risk to people evacuating and emergency responders.

Identification

Ensure your horse is microchipped and registered on a licenced registry in case it becomes lost during a fire. Include proof of ownership/ identification records in your emergency kit.

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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