



## **SONOMA SPRINGS EVAC DRILL** **Saturday, May 3, 2025**

Here's important info for all the animal owners participating in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Sonoma Springs Evacuation Drill. This is an important opportunity to brush up, reality-check your Evac readiness, and prep your pets, equines, chickens, and backyard farm animals.

Here's how you can get the most out of this important exercise...

### **PETS and SMALL ANIMALS**

- Practice with your pets just as if you were really evacuating.
- DO activate your "Red Flag Routine" 1-2 days before the exercise.
- Do NOT bring your pets if it's a hot day, they have health issues, or they get stressed by travel.
- If your pet does accompany you, use the leash or harness, collar, and ID they'll wear in an actual evacuation.
- Keep them cool! Bring water and possibly add a chill pad or an ice pack wrapped in a towel to the animal crates.

### **EQUINES, POULTRY, BACKYARD LIVESTOCK**

- Do NOT "evacuate" your large animals or poultry.
- DO Prep in advance as you would at the onset of a Fire Weather Alert.
- DO all the things necessary to evacuate your large animals or prepare to leave them sheltered in place (SIP) in the "refuge" area you have already prepared, including loading them in the trailer or turning them out into the refuge area.

### **ABOUT CHICKENS!**

- Evacuation of backyard poultry may not be possible due to avian infectious disease restrictions. Prep for SIP should be part of your plan.

### **ALL ANIMALS—Key Evac Exercise Action Checklist**

- Time your actions from the moment you receive the "Evac Order" Alert or hear the hi-lo siren until you leave your driveway.
- Include "mock" actions such as hanging Evacuation tags, opening or disabling gates, checking on a neighbor, or putting up "Animal Info" signs.

### **WHAT IF...you might not be with your animals in an actual incident?**

This is a great opportunity to PRACTICE with your neighborhood buddy network.

- Ensure your Animal Emergency Contacts are with your other emergency contacts and can be accessed in multiple ways.

## CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH PETS

- Check on neighbors with pets to help them prep and participate in the exercise.
- Contact HALTER Project to get a helpful toolkit for Seniors and Caregivers.

## HOW TO USE THIS DRILL AS A PRACTICE EVAC FOR YOUR ANIMALS

- Prepare as you would during a Red Flag/Fire Weather Watch: meaning, you're ready to load & go quickly, vehicles are staged, your animals have had some "loading rehearsals," and your home, yard, and barn/chicken coop/pens are prepped for defensibility and safety.

## WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE ALERT

- Do everything as you would in an actual Evacuation, including, if possible, loading or "almost" loading pets in carriers and cars. Then, quickly return them to their normal "hangout" at home.
- You can also do timed practice loading drills at other times and factor the time into your Evac plan.
- Remember to put pets in a secure place, with a water bowl in the crate, while you're loading the car.
- Load your "surrogate" toy furry, feathered, or hooved animals and EVACUATE.

Visit the HALTER Project at the Resource Fair after the drill. Please stop by to pick up an Animal Disaster Plan Workbook and /or a Barn & Ranch Safety packet. We'll be there to answer your questions, and we want to hear about your animal "evacuation" drill experience.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST!!

Please help by sharing info with neighbors, friends, and other community members by visiting [HALTERproject.org](http://HALTERproject.org)

Contact: [Rescue@halterfund.org](mailto:Rescue@halterfund.org)