

**ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON REMEDIATION
(e.g., after a hurricane has passed)
FOR PEOPLE WITH HORSES**



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

After an emergency,

- As soon as safely possible, use phones, radios, email, signs, or word of mouth to tell your Buddy, family, friends, and officials where you are (whether you stayed or evacuated), if you need help, or that you are OK.
- If water may have become contaminated, purify it
 - Boil water for one full minute and then allow it to cool
 - Or if the water looks clear, add 8 drops (1/4 teaspoon) of household bleach to each gallon of clear water. If the water is cloudy, add 16 drops (1/2 teaspoon) of household bleach to each gallon, mix it well, and then let it stand for 30 minutes
 - Or use water purification tables, per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Before venturing out or turning horses back into a barn or pasture, inspect carefully. Put on heavy, protective footwear, and watch out for sharp, foreign objects such as broken glass, roofing, or nails. Do not touch downed power lines. Inspect buildings and fences for damage. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main valve as well as electrical circuits and do not turn the gas back on until it has been checked by the gas company or a plumber.
- Take photos to document damage and then clean up debris.
- Be careful about leaving your horses unattended outside after the disaster. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and the horses could easily become confused and lost. It is best to place them in a secure area. Be sure fences are intact as some may be damaged by the disaster. Check fences and pastures for sharp objects that could injure horses. Be aware of downed power lines. Raccoons, skunks and other wild animals may have entered the area and could present a danger to both you and your horses.
- If any of your horses were lost during the disaster, be prepared to identify and document ownership. Contact local veterinarians, humane societies, stables, race tracks, equestrian centers, surrounding farms and other facilities that might provide emergency housing. Listen to the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) for information about locating lost animals.
- If you find someone else's horse after the disaster, isolate it from your animals until it is returned or can be examined by a veterinarian.

- Use extreme caution when approaching and handling unknown or frightened horses. Work in pairs when handling strange horses.
- Check with your veterinarian, the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA) and the DEM Division of Agriculture for information about any disease outbreaks that may have occurred as a result of the disaster.
- Consider establishing security measures on your farm to protect assets from looters or others who might exploit the situation.

See also:

[The Care of Livestock and Horses in Disasters](#) (FEMA).

[Guidelines to Follow During Equine Emergencies](#) and [Disaster Planning for Horse Farms](#) (AAEP).

[Disaster Preparedness for Horses](#) and [Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals](#) (HSUS).

[Saving the Whole Family](#) (AVMA).