

**Horses and bushfire – what do we know**



**Feedback Survey. Q11: What actions will you take as a result of this webinar to improve your bushfire safety?**

- 1 More emphasis on practical components and fire behavior.
- 2 Share the information in my delivery of emergency preparedness to my rural community.
- 3 Revise our plan again. Meet with all who are regular visitors here and share thoughts in view of updating plan. Make sure all have a copy and copies are posted in various places. More practise.
- 4 I'm not a horse owner but I do live in fire prone areas, so I've gotten some solid info here should I find myself in a position to help in the future.
- 5 Develop a better fire plan.
- 6 Talk with my neighbours and update my written bushfire plan to include livestock.
- 7 Prepare fire safe(r) paddocks with fire safe water supply. Potentially microchip all horses.
- 8 Be more aware of clogging up roads for emergency vehicles and therefore ensuring we evacuate timely if we evacuate. Teach horses to load onto float at night.
- 9 Just further thoughts as I don't have a float.
- 10 Create a plan that considers different scenarios e.g. when horses are agisted when holidaying.
- 11 Update contingency.
- 12 Will have more knowledge about the safest way to manage horses in a fire. Look at being able to provide assistance after fires if required for horses if my property is not directly affected.
- 13 Find resources, review and practise our plan.
- 14 Talk to others, PLAN.
- 15 Keep a short paddock. More water storage near sheds.
- 16 Finish off my paddock fencing before summer so the alpacas can have access to a bigger area. They will stay.

- 17 Write a comprehensive plan, practise it, moving horse during the day & night. Have a prepared kit including PIC (property identification code) number & microchip.
- 18 Reassess, rewrite including local area map. Share awareness through local pony club families.
- 19 Review our plan now we are older & no family at home. What are our capabilities now compared with 10 years ago.
- 20 Horse neck band - perhaps custom made neck rug in yellow with information on it rather than marking horse.
- 21 At the moment I am working on bushfire information for locals and tourists.
- 22 I downloaded the templates from CFA and we will attend the other webinars and begin to construct our plans in the event of a fire. We're new to living in the country (1 year).
- 23 Review our emergency plan and practise our evacuation and remain plans.
- 24 Continue with existing plan that's been active since 2009 with a few improvements - find out where "horse safe places" are in Nillumbik.
- 25 Not a horse owner, however often required to make recommendations to communities under threat about locations for safe relocation of pets (and horses). Found the presentations to be informative and while I understand the issues around messages/response fatigue, good points made around personal expectations and responsibilities to act before becoming under threat from fire.
- 26 Rewrite and refresh plan.
- 27 Look up CFA website for checklist / other information that I may be able to use in my role to help community members.
- 28 None, there wasn't anything specific that I did not already have in place.
- 29 Making sure I have relevant vet supplies. Make sure all members of the family know the horse's fire plan.
- 30 Make sure we have portable generators to run the pumps if power goes out, have a well eaten out paddock to put stock into, make sure the water tank/fire fighting equipment is always usable/fuelled up ready to go.
- 31 Review our bushfire safety plan and the actions we will take.
- 32 We don't have a horse. The usual imperatives reinforced, reviewing the plan, looking more at plans B, C. Greater emphasis to rehearsal of stay to survive, even though leave early is plan A.

- 33 I think Andrew or Chris was going to talk about how the horses react with fires and the panic. Hard to say for each horse is different but would have liked to hear some scenarios, so I could be better prepared. But they did say to just Google it. It also showed a marked oversight in all regions/shires/CFA (maybe) in that they assume everyone knows the evacuation locations. I don't and I have asked and even then they assumed I would know where it was and how to take my horse there, do I stay? register them? Being a single parent, managing it all will be a challenge hence our plan is to get out. Anyway big complex issue that we all hope doesn't happen to us. But being prepared will make it easier.
- 34 Revisit and write down plan, talk to my neighbour to brainstorm, think about evacuation as well as stay and defend, back up plans.
- 35 Drafting out a plan and doing a lot of research relevant to areas highlighted last night. Touching base with our local RFS (already have introduced ourselves) to discuss specific areas re our property.
- 36 Ensure I have both an evacuation plan, and also a plan if that fails.
- 37 Consider the impact of fire on communities I work with.
- 38 Revisit our plan.
- 39 Don't have a horse myself but will advise others.
- 40 Think more about the topography issues raised by Kevin and the possible impact if we get caught here.
- 41 I would really like a copy of Andrew's Bushfire Plan (or template) as a reference/tool for my community.
- 42 I don't have horses but as a firey I now know a bit more and what to look out for.
- 43 Plans.
- 44 Seek to find example plans and update ours.
- 45 Plan in advance.
- 46 Consider alternative plans i.e. plan A and plan B scenarios.
- 47 I will make a comprehensive written plan which includes my horses.
- 48 Write my fire plans down so they're very clear and easily accessible if I'm not thinking straight at the time. Pack the things I would need in my float over summer (horse first aid kit, buckets, extra leads etc). Hassle the local council to have a horse safe refuge place. I've been thinking about this for a while and the webinar has inspired me to take action.
- 49 I do not have horses. But I do have beef cattle. So I was interested for ideas for steers in fires. Obviously I cannot evacuate prior to catastrophic days. But I can think more about the stay and defend plan.

- 50 A written plan, seek independent assessment & advice for my property.
- 51 Go through the plan we have developed and delegate tasks to household members. Make sure you have what you need for your animals packed and ready to go. Practise the plan.
- 52 I took summary notes and sent them to the other members of our horse adoption team to encourage the development of our fire plan.
- 53 I am already in the process of re-evaluating our bushfire plan, based on information I already have been given. We found that most of what we had in place worked during the fire, but there are several actions we are in the process of taking: 1. Making sure our driveway is totally devoid of trees near the roadway; and 2. Having a gate near the roadway with metal posts. Gate to road to be closed so our horses can't get onto the road, while still allowing the internal gates to be open so they can get out of the way of the fire. All the animals on our property survived the fire with minimal injuries (singed whiskers), even though 90% of our property was destroyed.
- 54 I will put a plan in place for my own horses. Have a bag with supplies packed before start of each bushfire season. Encourage others at my agistment to also have a plan. Speak to council re where our evacuation points are.
- 55 Will practise float loading in the dark and have float stocked with feed and medical supplies.
- 56 Try to find horse refuges in the Nillumbik shire as an alternative to leaving my horses on our cleared property.
- 57 Set Plan. Share plan with family and friends. Practise Plan at dawn, dusk, day time and night time. Be prepared!!
- 58 Making sure all the family are aware of the horse evacuation plan now that we have extra horses on the property, we need to update our plan. Have a second plan in place if we are unable to get horses on float, or one float 4 horses which horses we take. Have a map of all internal gates that need to be opened so horses can safely move around in case a fire comes through and access to water. Make sure horses are turned out in big paddock with the dam as all our paddock water troughs are run by an electric pump in a fire we would lose power so no water to troughs.
- 59 Review and update bushfire action plan using some of the resources mentioned.
- 60 Review my plan & revise/adjust the aspects raised. Some made me broaden my view of what should be covered i.e. not 1 or 2 plans but 1 for the variations that my lifestyle presents e.g. I know what plan if I'm home or nearby but work is 1.5 hrs away - what then!
- 61 Review written plan with different options, review and update regularly, test and practise plan.
- 62 Create a plan for recovery for the days after. Improve our first aid kit for treating animal burns.
- 63 Revisit plans to relocate pets.
- 64 I work with people to prepare for bushfire and this has been very helpful to assist others. I do not own any animals.
- 65 Written plan. And maybe purchasing a second towing vehicle.

- 66 I have a plan but I will re think it coming into the new season.
- 67 Revise my Bushfire Action Plan, have it in a written form and ensure my family know it too.
- 68 Research and planning - more than I have already.
- 69 Informing members of our community fireguard group the importance of a written and practised fire plan and again suggesting that even that they know it all, revision is very important and is another trigger for practise.
- 70 Review our fire plan and build in actions for before, during and after the event as well as scenarios where we do evacuate and where we are unable to.
- 71 I am currently doing the Living with Fire course with UTAS. This has helped me to understand the importance of other parts of life.
- 72 It just emphasized the need to plan, and to go early.
- 73 I have a horse on agistment, not a high risk area for bushfire risk however the roads into & out of the property may be compromised due to bushfires in the surrounding areas. I will discuss with fellow agistors and the property owner what would be our bushfire plan if necessary, including an evacuation meeting point.
- 74 I will look into horse evacuation centres, but at this stage you can rarely take your dog to an evacuation centre let alone a large animal.
- 75 Practise hitching the float and loading the horses in the dark. Get things ready so I can transport and supply water after a fire.
- 76 None. We already have a bushfire safety plan in place and our property is well prepared.
- 77 To work on a better multi-plan fire plan. To practise it with our agistees. To install an exit gate with neighbours.
- 78 Add some more elements to my emergency considerations - separate hay supply, add to First aid kit.
- 79 I don't have a horse but do have properties around mine that do. Can assist them in a bushfire.
- 80 Some additions to my evacuation kit.
- 81 Formulate a written plan.
- 82 I am not a horse owner but I can apply some of the practical advice to my own. I was struck by the comments re evacuation fatigue and it was reassuring to hear comments about the benefits of evacuation. Opportunity to practise, highlights what can be improved, fire is unpredictable so one never knows how the day will pan out, despite the huge inconvenience and extra work load!
- 83 Watch the weather predictions. Clear the understory where possible have a plan.
- 84 Be sure to have more than one source of horse fodder to try and have insurance immediately

post a fire event. Remove any temporary electric fencing that might add to horse and human confusion

- 85 Write down a plan and check if there is a designated safe place for horses in the area.