



Protect Your Large Animals and Livestock From Wildfire Smoke

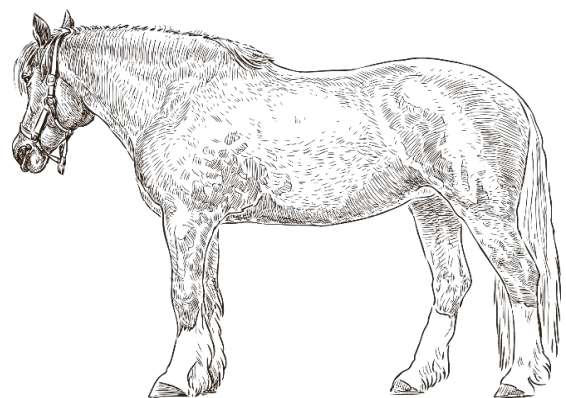
Your animals can be affected by wildfire smoke. If you feel the effects of smoke, they probably do too! High levels of smoke are harmful. Exposure to lower levels of smoke can also irritate animals' eyes and respiratory tracts and make it hard for them to breathe.

Evidence in humans indicates that the effects of exposure to smoke and heat together are worse than to smoke alone. This is also likely true for your animals. Reduce your animals' exposure to smoke and heat the same way you reduce your own: spend less time in smoky air, spend more time in cooler or shady areas, make plenty of water available, and limit physical activity. Animals with heart or lung disease or older, pregnant and very young animals are especially at risk from smoke and heat and should be closely watched during all periods of poor air quality and heat events.

Be prepared using the information in this fact sheet. Monitor local air quality to inform how you manage your animals. Take the following actions to protect your large animals and livestock against wildfire smoke and heat. Also check the American Veterinary Medical Association website [Wildfire Smoke and Animals](#).

Protect Your Animals During Smoke and Heat Episodes

- Limit activities that increase the amount of smoke breathed into the lungs.
- This includes limiting all activity that requires effort. For horses, avoid riding, training, or forced walks. Similarly for cattle, avoid running them through chutes and postpone stressful elective procedures. Only essential activity should be considered during smoke events.
- If it is hot, move animals to areas with more shade to keep them cooler and provide plenty of water near feeding areas.
- Limit dust exposure by feeding low-dust or dust-free feeds, using low-dust bedding, and sprinkling or misting for the livestock holding areas. Limit activity that increases dust, such as



sweeping aisles, using tractors, and changing bedding. Only essential management activity should continue.

- Consider moving outdoor birds to a less smoky, cooler environment, such as a garage or basement. Move potentially dangerous products, such as pesticides, out of the reach of animals in these rooms.
- Give your livestock four to six weeks to recover fully from smoky conditions before resuming strenuous activity.
- Protect yourself, too! Think about wearing a NIOSH Approved® N95® or P100® respirator while taking care of your animals.

Prepare Before a Wildfire

Know where to take your livestock if smoke persists or becomes severe, or if you need to evacuate. Good barn and field maintenance can reduce fire danger for horses and other livestock.

Recordkeeping

- Make sure your animals have permanent identification (ear tags, tattoos, electronic microchips, brands, etc.).
- Keep pictures of animals, especially high-value animals, such as horses, up to date.
- Keep a list of the species, number, and locations of your animals with your evacuation supplies.
- Note animals' favorite hiding spots. This will save precious rescue time!
- Keep vaccination records, medical records, and registration papers with your [Evacuation Kit](#).

Preparing for Evacuations

- Assemble an [Evacuation Kit](#).
- Know where you can temporarily shelter your livestock. Contact your local fairgrounds, stockyards, equestrian centers, etc. about their policies.
- Identify trailer resources and train all horses and livestock to load in those trailers.
- Make an evacuation plan for your animals. Plan several different evacuation routes.
- Check with local emergency management officials before you need to evacuate.
- Do not wait until the last minute. Corral animals to prepare for off-site movement.
- Above all, ensure the safety of you and your family.

Evacuation Kit

This list has some recommended items for large animals and livestock. Your animals may have their own special requirements.

- Supply of feed, supplements, necessary medications, and water for seven to ten days.
- Blankets, halters, leads, water buckets, manure fork, and trash barrel.
- Copies of vaccination records, medical records, and proof of ownership.
- Tools: flashlight, heavy leather gloves, rope, shovel, knife, and wire cutters.
- Animal care instructions for diet and medications (for animals left at a shelter).
- Emergency cash, emergency contact list, and first aid kit.

If You Must Leave Your Animals Behind

- If evacuation cannot be accomplished in a safe and timely way, have a preselected, cleared area where your animals can move about.
- Open gates, cut fences, and herd livestock into areas of lower fire risk.
- Let neighbors and first responders know to be on the lookout for your animals.
- Leave enough food and water for 48 to 72 hours. Do not rely on automatic watering systems.
- Once you leave your property, do not return until told to do so by local officials.

Resources

Scan the QR code to the right to access an online version of this fact sheet and the additional resources below.



Information on Air Quality

Check out the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map, your state air quality website, or your local news for air quality information. Access these resources using the links below!

- [AirNow Fire and Smoke Map](#)
 - [IOS App](#)
 - [Android App](#)
- [Wildfire Guide Fact Sheets](#)
- [Resources and Information on Wildland Fires and Smoke](#)
- [Infographics on Staying Safe Before, During and After Fires](#)

Additional Resource

- [American Veterinary Medical Association's Wildfire Smoke and Animals](#)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | EPA-452/F-26-008