

# WILDFIRE SMOKE FACTSHEET

---

## Protect Your Large Animals and Livestock from Wildfire Smoke

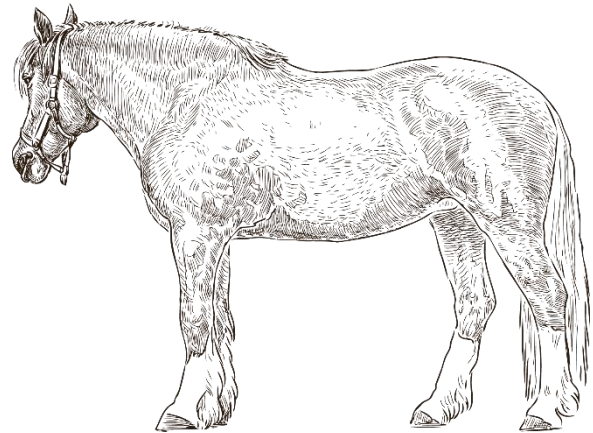
---



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. Long exposure to lower levels of smoke can also irritate animals' eyes and respiratory tract and make it hard for them to breathe. Reduce your animals' exposure to smoke the same way you reduce your own: spend less time in smoky areas and limit physical activity. Animals with heart or lung disease and older animals are especially at risk from smoke and should be closely watched during all periods of poor air quality. Take the following actions to protect your large animals and livestock against wildfire smoke.

### Protect Your Animals During Smoke Episodes

- Limit strenuous activities that increase the amount of smoke breathed into the lungs.
- Provide plenty of fresh water near feeding areas.
- Limit dust exposure by feeding low-dust or dust-free feeds and sprinkling or misting the livestock holding areas.
- Consider moving outdoor birds to a less smoky environment, such as a garage or basement.
- Give your livestock 4 to 6 weeks to recover fully from smoky conditions before resuming strenuous activity.
- Protect yourself, too! Think about wearing an 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.

### Record Keeping

- 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 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 just some recommended items for large animals and livestock. Your animals may have their own special requirements.

- Supply of feed, supplements and water for 7 to 10 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, or 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 officials.

### For more information:

- Get air quality information: Check your local news, the [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) website, or your state air quality agency's website.
- Reduce Your Smoke Exposure Fact Sheet: [https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/smoke\\_fires/reduce-your-smoke-exposure.pdf](https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/smoke_fires/reduce-your-smoke-exposure.pdf)
- Learn more about wildfire smoke: *Wildfire Smoke, A Guide for Public Health Officials*: [https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/wildfire\\_may2016.pdf](https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/wildfire_may2016.pdf)
- American Veterinary Medical Association. Get more tips and information on caring for pets and livestock during a wildfire: <https://www.avma.org/public/EmergencyCare/Pages/Wildfire-Smoke-and-Animals.aspx>  
<https://www.avma.org/public/EmergencyCare/Pages/Large-Animals-and-Livestock-in-Disasters.aspx>

