

# Escambia County Equestrian Center

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## Hurricane - Tropical Storm - Severe Weather Procedures

**If you feel you might need to evacuate your horses during severe weather, please read this page carefully as it outlines the procedures the Equestrian Center will follow.**

### Ask yourself, "What is my evacuation plan?"

The safest plan for horses during a hurricane is to remove them from the area. If that isn't possible, the next best solution is to turn them out in a large field with solid fencing and plenty of open space. If this also is not possible, you need to look at local evacuation plans.

The Equestrian Center (EC) is under the jurisdiction of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) during severe weather and the facility will be opened for evacuation solely at the direction of the EOC. This means that EC staff will not be able to accept your horse unless and until the EOC makes the decision to open. Should the EC be opened for evacuation, the Public Information Office will notify the media outlets. It will also be posted on the EC Facebook page.

### Procedures should EC accept evacuees:

- Be prepared to show a negative coggins for each horse. A staff member will check your coggins, check you in, and assign you a stall. Staff will collect payment at this time. Stalls are \$10/night. Stock pens are \$7 per horse per night. Stock pens are not guaranteed to be available. Tie-outs are not allowed under any circumstances. Horses are not allowed to shelter in the covered arena. Shavings can be purchased for \$7/bag. You are allowed to bring your own shavings if you prefer.
- Stalls will be allocated on a first-come/first-served basis. You may reserve a stall in advance with full payment. No refunds will be given should stall(s) not be used. Stalls will be assigned in order. Please do not dispute your stall assignments. Hurricanes are busy and stressful for everyone and you will need to accept your assigned stall.
- Owners will be responsible for feeding and watering their horses prior to the storm. You should have ample water buckets and hay on hand. Owners will also be responsible for stall cleaning prior to storm. Staff will not clean stalls until horses have vacated.
- All owners will be required to leave the facility prior to the storm's landfall. Owners must take everything with them except what is to be left in stall. Anything left in the aisleways will be disposed of. Once the winds subside to safe levels, EC staff will check stalls and fill water buckets as needed.
- All horses must have a halter and lead rope that stays with them. Staff will only remove horses from stalls in an emergency situation. Should you not leave a halter on your horse, it should be marked for identification in the event it should get loose from stall. You can do this with paint, mane wraps, or in another way.
- In the case of a medical emergency, staff will call the vet listed on the check-in sheet. Owners are responsible for any charges incurred and should make prior arrangements with their vets. If no vet is listed or if vet refuses to come, facility bears no liability for any damage to horse caused by lack of medical care.
- Horses must be removed no later than 72 hours after storm has passed through. Horses that are not removed within 72 hours will either be turned over to animal control or the county livestock officer and additional fees/fines may incur, or owners will be required to pay the normal stall rate of \$17/night.

### Bring To EC With You:

- 1) Negative Coggins. Horses will NOT be accepted on the grounds without one.
- 2) Feed and water containers.
- 3) Plenty of feed and hay.
- 4) Halter and lead.
- 5) Water hose (not mandatory, but helpful).