

Bushfire Emergency Plan

Plan – Act – Survive

Evacuation Plan & Plan B

- Leave early (you may need to make more than 1 trip) Stay calm, think clearly, put plan into action.
- Have a safe and secure destination for your horse, (ie showground, pony club grounds, racetrack, friends, relatives) or somewhere safe on your property
- How will you get there, what route will you take?
- Listen to evacuation warnings, road closures etc through ABC radio and local community radio, social media, NSW SES Facebook pages, NSW RFS “Fires Near Me”
- Let your friends and family know your plan if you are not home (discuss your plan with neighbours or other horse owners in the area and work together)
- Ensure spare keys to padlocks are accessible
- Ask your agistment centre what their bushfire plan is
- Put a damp cloth over your horses muzzle covering the nostrils when there is smoke around
- Use Pink Zinc to put phone numbers on your horses coat or black marker on hooves
- Have photos of both sides of your horse, and any distinct markings
- Know your brands / microchip number
- Know your PIC (Property Identification Code)
- Pack buckets for water
- Prepare a grab and go kit (restraint, transport, food, water, medications and first aid and a safe destination)
- Have a Plan B if your evacuation plan is not working. Practice and review your plan on a regular basis.

Staying Put - A Safe Place on Your Property

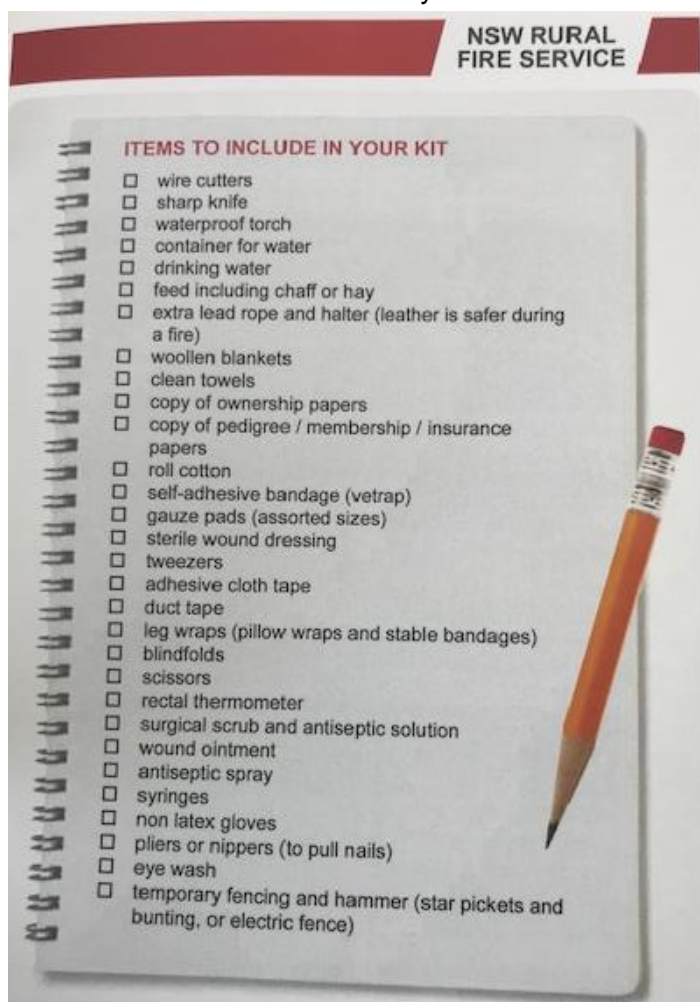
- Put the horses in a large cleared area big enough for your horse to run through or around a fire. Open and secure internal gates if in two paddocks.
- The paddock should be closely grazed or mowed or be a well fenced sand arena
- Remove rugs, fly veils, halters
- Ensure there is a water supply ie dam
- Is there secure fencing, even if the power goes off, with clear access?
- When the fire arrives, go inside and keep yourself and your family safe. Your horse should be okay if it is able to move around in the “safe” paddock.

Handling – Things to Consider

- Try to control their flight response
- Horses will pick up on your stress so it is important to remain calm
- Does your horse load on a float or truck easily. Is your float well maintained and registered or can you borrow from a friend?

After the Fire – What's Next

- First aid kits are handy as phone lines may be down and roads closed so you may not have access to your vet
- Hose or sponge any burns immediately with cold water and call vet
- Check the nostrils for discharge. Any black discharge along with signs of distress, such as laboured breathing or wheezing, could mean respiratory burns or smoke inhalation, you should contact your vet immediately
- Remove the horse from hot ground as soon as possible to avoid laminitis
- Ensure your horse has access to clean drinking water to help with dehydration and burns
- Ensure your horse is well hydrated. Do the skin pinch test on the neck for at least 24 hours after the fire. If the horse is well hydrated the skin will return to normal after 1-2 seconds.



<- Recommended Equipment for First Aid Kits

HEVC First Aid Kits are available to purchase for \$160

Websites / Apps / Phone Numbers

www.ses.nsw.gov.au

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

www.rspcansw.org.au

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Bush Fire Information Line 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

"Fires Near Me" (App)