

Are your horses part of your bushfire plan?

Planning ahead

Have you thought about relocating your horses to areas that are not prone to bushfire on high fire danger days? Have you thought about agisting your horses in areas that are not prone to bushfire during the summer season?

Identifying your animals

Have you registered a property identification code (PIC) with Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Training and Transport, web: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au? A property's PIC is used to determine where animals are normally housed so authorities can identify where to direct animal welfare officers and veterinarians.

Going to an Emergency Relief Centre

If your decision is to wait and relocate if there is a threat, horses and other animals are welcome at Emergency Relief Centres, but they must be contained and supervised at all times, and you must bring along basic provisions for them. An emergency relief centre is a designated place to go when there is an emergency that is likely to affect a large number of people. Council will open an emergency relief centre when requested to do so by the agency that is responsible for the emergency.

At the Emergency Relief Centre

The centres offer support and information, food, material needs, emergency shelter, temporary accommodation and counselling. If practicable, anyone seeking emergency shelter at the relief centre should bring items necessary for their general health and wellbeing, such as medicines. For information on where a relief centre is opening, and to keep up to date with any fires in your area, you should use a range of sources including the Vic Emergency website www.emergency.vic.gov.au, ABC radio, CFA's FireReady App and CFA social media channels.

Caring for animals at the Emergency Relief Centre

If taking horses to a relief centre, remember that facilities are limited so you will need to consider a relocation kit for your horses:

- Feed and water buckets
- Feed
- Manure scoop and bucket
- Spare halters and lead ropes
- First aid items and medications
- Personal items, bedding etc.

Depending on the temperament of your horses and behaviour around others, you may also need to consider the following:

- Portable yards

For localised information and updates:

- Visit Council's website: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au
- Like us on Facebook:
 - ✓ Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts
 - ✓ Macedon Ranges Equine Industry Network