

Useful Contacts/Information

Customer Contact

Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Unit
0845 3459166. www.somerset.gov.uk

Environment Agency

Floodline 0845 988 1188
For information about flooding visit
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood

RSPCA

West Hatch Animal Rescue Centre, Taunton
(routine) 0300 123 0747
(Urgent) 0300 1234 999 (24hr)

Somerset County Council Animal Health & Welfare

Somerset Trading Standards, Chelston, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9HP.
01823 660050

The following agencies and organisations support and
recommend this information to you.



This document is also available on request
in Braille, large print, tape or disc and can
be translated into different languages.



CHECKLIST

Before it Happens –

- Check to see if your area is at risk from flooding or other emergency
- Prepare your evacuation plans
- Make sure your animal is identifiable

Add any contact numbers or addresses relevant to your plans e.g. your number of your vet surgery, contact details of your choice of boarding facilities

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**KEEP THIS LEAFLET IN A SAFE PLACE.
KEEP YOUR PLANS UPDATED.**

This suite of leaflets is supported by:
Rill UK. The Environment Agency. Somerset Local Authorities
Civil Contingencies Partnership. The Royal Bath & West of
England Society. RSPCA. The British Horse Society. World Horse
Welfare. Horse World. DEFRA Animal Health.

Animal Health & Welfare SCC. Farm Crisis Network. NFU.
National Animal Welfare Trust

Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit
Somerset County Council, County Hall,
Taunton, Somerset TA1 4DY.

Tel: 01823 356804
email: civilcontingencies@somerset.gov.uk

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LIVESTOCK DURING A DISASTER



LIVESTOCK IN EMERGENCIES

These guidelines are for the preparation for an emergency such as flood, fire, heat wave or human health pandemic. Notifiable disease outbreaks are the responsibility of DEFRA who will advise livestock owners in these situations.

Authorities in Somerset take contingency planning seriously and need animal owners to do the same in order to help save lives and protect communities. There is a significant knock on effect when any one sector fails to prepare.

It is recognized that owners of livestock are in a unique position when it comes to evacuation. Many will choose to remain with their animals, the following guidelines are meant to help protect lives by thinking ahead.

THE NUMBER ONE WAY YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR LIVESTOCK AND PROBABLY YOUR LIVELIHOOD, IS BY PLANNING AHEAD. The aim of this leaflet is to help you to start to think how you can help yourself.

MAKE PLANS NOW

Research has found that animal needs are the same as for humans during or post disaster i.e. food, water, shelter and first aid. Do not wait until it is too late. By taking the time now to prepare you will save valuable minutes or hours when the disaster is imminent.

In the event of an emergency, local authority personnel and emergency officials will advise you on situations but you may find that you need to act immediately and set your plans into action on your own initiative.

Familiarize yourself with each type of disaster that could affect your area – floods, fire, industrial accident, terrorism? Some of these may seem extreme but individual premises will be more liable to problems than others. Thinking about it ahead of time will ensure preparedness.

Consider your future response in the event of:

- sudden onset emergencies – flash floods, fire or freak snow storm
- slower onset emergencies - rising flood levels, drought or pandemic.

Remember that you may not be at home when an evacuation or emergency is announced – confide your plan to a neighbour or trusted friend who may be in a position to help. **Ensure any relief workers are aware of your contingency plans.**

Farmers know their land better than anyone and many will have identified areas of their property where livestock can move to for safety whether on pasture or under cover.

Contingency planning is just that, local knowledge and collaboration ahead of time may well help your community avoid disease outbreak or welfare problems.

The Animals Welfare Act 2006 now puts responsibility of animal welfare and the avoidance of preventable suffering firmly on the shoulders of all animal keepers. Working together in communities may well help prevent the start or spread of diseases brought about by a crisis. Experience shows lives are saved by alliances within a community. Consider other livestock owners in the vicinity – the smallholder down the road may benefit from facilities that a larger operation may have and they in return will be an extra pair of hands during the emergency.

Previous contact and discussion may allay fears over biosecurity issues. Local farming and livestock groups can benefit from working together and discussing action plans. Parish county councils may also be a useful source to encourage collaboration.

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING PLANS:

1. KEEP LIVESTOCK RECORDS SAFE

As livestock owners you will be only too aware of the various movement restrictions and licences needed for your particular species of animal: Computer systems should be located off ground level and copies of all relevant material made and kept elsewhere (such as with a family member). Paper records are also safest stored above ground floor level.

2. PREVENTATIVE HEALTH STRATEGIES

In areas prone to flooding, there is an increased incidence of certain diseases, several of which can be guarded against by vaccination. There is significant increased risk of Clostridial diseases which include blackleg and tetanus. Parasite burdens in both the individual animal and pasture will increase after flooding. Conditions related to hoof horn softening (puncture wounds and foot rot), pneumonia and mastitis are all seen to increase in areas post flooding.

Be prepared and talk to your own veterinary surgeon about prophylactic treatment and vaccination where appropriate. Also ensure your first aid cupboard is stocked with appropriate drugs, again your own vet can advise you on this.

Remember the youngest, the oldest and pregnant animals will be most prone to stress and illness and will need extra monitoring. Disease can spread from carrier animals during times of stress. Consider increasing biosecurity measures wherever possible.

3. FEED AND WATER STORES

Pasture and water courses will be contaminated after flooding.

Water: Consider storing as much water as possible above flood level, enough at least to see your livestock through until clean tanker water can be delivered.

Feed: Store enough feed above flood level, even a few days rations will often be enough to see your animals through until deliveries can be made. If you have to feed your stock rations that may have been contaminated, initially feed just a few animals to gauge affect. Again, remember animals may have picked up an increase in parasites.

4. TRANSPORT:

Consider transport options for all livestock under your care. If you do not have access to your own transport, identify local farmers or hauliers who may be able to help.

Emergency Evacuation: It is recognized that evacuation is rarely going to be a sensible option, however Somerset CC are sourcing evacuation premises for use in an emergency, their contact details and that of Animal Health authorities are overleaf.

OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Remember your workforce and casual labour may not be in a position to get into work.
- Plans should include very basic principals such as in areas prone to flash flooding, cages/pens should be off the ground.
- Tying up animals such as farm dogs or restricting movement during floods will sign an animal's death warrant. Animals are amazingly resilient and will save themselves if given the opportunity to do so.
- Extra thought will be required when making contingency plans for dangerous animals such as dairy bulls but there may well come a day when you will be very grateful you made such plans!

PROTECT YOUR OWN HEALTH

SEVERAL ANIMAL DISEASES CAN INFECT HUMANS, BE AWARE THAT THE PREVALENCE OF THESE ZOOSES OFTEN INCREASES DURING A CRISIS.

Puncture wounds should not be neglected as can result in tetanus, cuts and skin injuries are more likely to lead to serious infection. Standing water can promote growth of anaerobic pathogens and parasite vectors.

FINALLY, REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PLANS UPDATED

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Feedback is welcomed please email: enquiries@rill-uk.com