



Developing an Emergency or Disaster Preparedness Plan

When emergencies and disasters happen, they come with little warning. There is no one size, fits all way to prepare for such catastrophes, but this outline should help raise the questions and issues you should consider when formulating a plan that is right for your individual kennel.

A. Things to Consider When Devising an Emergency Evacuation Plan:

Reflect on ways to organize your kennel and equipment to better prepare for an emergency or disaster.

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How many dogs will you need to provide for in your plan?
2. Do you have a safe and adequate enclosure for all of your dogs?
3. Is there a safer location you could move your dogs to if necessary? Where is it?
 - a. Could you and/or your family, friends, colleagues, or community volunteers move your dogs there?
 - b. If you couldn't take all your dogs at once, how would you choose which ones to take first, knowing that you might not make it back or be allowed back on your property?
 - c. Is your dog truck, box, or trailer ready at all times? Where do you keep the keys?
4. How fast can you load your dogs?
5. Do you have extra (preferably a 5-7 day) supplies of medication, food, and water to take with you?
6. Have you made digital and print copies of all important documents and photos of your dogs? Make sure these are kept in a secure location.
7. What type of identification do you have on hand should a dog get loose or be taken to a site where they could be mixed in with other dogs?
8. Do you have cleaning and sanitizing supplies on hand?
9. Do you have other pets or animals that would need to be moved? How would you facilitate this?
10. Would your employer allow you to leave in an emergency situation to return home? If not, what alternate arrangements would you need to make?

B. Elements to Consider When Developing Your Written Emergency or Disaster Plan:

1. Continuity of Kennel Operations:

- Ability to maintain communications (do not rely on landlines or cell phones)
- Alternate power source (i.e. generators that have received regular maintenance and that your staff can operate; ideally professionally installed and able to provide long-term power to your entire facility)
- Generator fuel source
- Continued refrigeration
- List of suppliers with current 24-hour contact information

- Alternate food and water sources in case of contamination
- 5-7 days of food and water for each dog
- 5-7 days of medications for each dog
- Find an Alternate Kennel Location (within your vicinity)
- Consider forming a relationship with a Buddy Kennel (that is outside your vicinity)
- Practice disaster drills

2. Emergency Relocation of Animals (if necessary):

- Leashes, carriers, and other animal-specific supplies necessary for transport
- Appropriate, pre-arranged animal transportation vehicle
- Temporary animal holding location

3. Retention of important documents:

- Off-site computer back-up (fireproof safes will not prevent melting)
- Off-site copies of important documents
- Dog identification by photo and permanent I.D.
- Digital storage

C. Checklist of Possible Items to Have on Hand/Assembled (in order to be prepared):

1. Supplies

- Dog truck – ready to go
- Leashes and collars – at least one per dog
- Medications
- Food, bowls, scoops, etc.
- Water
- Poop bucket, shovel, heavy duty plastic bags
- Cleaning supplies – bleach cleanser, rags, paper towels, etc.
- First Aid Kit

2. Important Information Maintained Hard Copy And Digitally

- Shot records
- Dog identification- microchip #s, ownership and litter records, photos of dogs with you, collar I.D., etc.
- List of dogs on medications, including dose and frequency
 - Notes about the essential physical or personality traits of each individual dogs (e.g. shy, aggressive, blind, deaf, intact for breeding, physical ailments)
- A physical description of dogs (size, weight, age, color)
- Contact information for you and your buddy kennel(s)
- Map of kennel layout, dog locations (name of dog if possible), location of supplies
- Keep all information accessible and give copies of all documentation to your buddy kennel

3. Develop A Buddy System

Create a relationship with a buddy kennel and exchange information about your kennels. This will be useful in case of an emergency. The buddy kennel should also hold a hard copy of pet records and help assist in the case of an emergency.
