

## **EXPLANATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM OF THE BEAR VALLEY SPRINGS EQUINE EMERGENCY PLAN**

Bear Valley Springs Equestrian Center has created an Equine Emergency Plan (EEP) which includes using phone, electronic alert notifications, emails, texts and Facebook to disseminate accurate information to large animal owners in the event of an emergency threatening our community. If possible, on an ongoing basis, information and updates regarding any changes in the status of local conditions will also be disseminated as quickly as possible.

One of the main purposes of the EEP is to emphasize to large animal owners their responsibilities in emergencies. Each person needs to create their own emergency plan in advance, so that they are prepared to either evacuate early or shelter at home during and/or after an emergency. Legally animal owners are responsible for the wellbeing of their animals, and that includes during an emergency.

Often, in emergencies, rumors and erroneous information abound. The EEP communication system is used to minimize confusion. The information relayed will be provided by the authorities in charge (BVCSO, BVSA, Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, Kern County Animal Services, etc).

It is the intention that as many large animal owners who have registered with the EEP as possible be contacted when faced with emergency conditions or a potential disaster in BVS, such as a wildfire. The Equestrian Center is encouraging large animal owners to register with the EEP, so that they will receive information in a timely manner to enable them to make good, informed decisions regarding their animals in the case of an emergency.

### **The Equine Emergency Plan and the Equestrian Center do NOT provide emergency trailing for large animals should evacuation become necessary.**

When necessary, a temporary shelter will be set up at the Equestrian Center to house equines displaced by the emergency. The Equestrian Center Management will notify people who have registered with the EEP if a shelter has been opened.

The Equestrian Center has set up a Facebook page called: '**BVS Equestrian Emergency Information**', where information will be posted as soon as it is received. Sign up in advance so that you will be able to access vital information as soon as an emergency arises.

If you have any questions, contact the Equestrian Center office via email at: [randie@bvsa.org](mailto:randie@bvsa.org).

**Be prepared and make a plan!**