Many parts of the United States continue to experience inclement weather and natural disasters. This is a good time to make sure you have a disaster plan in place for home, stable, Pony Club meetings, and events. In the event of a disaster, there are additional challenges to taking care of our equine partners, but here are 10 key points for a disaster plan to help with that:

1. Have permanent and temporary identification of your horse for reunification purposes;
2. Keep halters and lead ropes ready and tagged with contact information;
3. Have medical records and proof of ownership readily accessible.
4. Keep your truck and trailer in good working order or arrange in advance for alternate transportation.
5. Make sure your horse knows how to safely load and unload from a trailer.
6. Identify exit routes in advance and know where your local evacuation sites are;
7. Have a backup plan in the event evacuation is not possible.
8. Share your plan with friends and neighbors and post instructions in several places for others to follow, if necessary.
9. Have enough feed and water for at least 72 hours, equine and human first-aid kits, and a shelter-in-place emergency kit.
10. Evacuate early and do not wait for mandatory evacuation orders.