

What Horse Owners Can Do To Monitor Horses Evacuated from Fire Areas:

by
Drs. Gary Magdesian and Joie Watson

Horses exposed to fire smoke can suffer respiratory injury of varying degrees, ranging from mild irritation to severe smoke inhalation-induced airway or lung damage.

Knowing what is normal versus concerning can help to know whether your horse should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

Respiratory rate at rest should be 12-24 breaths/minute.

Horses should be examined by a veterinarian if any of the following are noted:

- Respiratory rate is consistently greater than 30 breaths/minute at rest
- Nostrils have obvious flaring
- There is obvious increased effort of breathing when watching the horse's abdomen and rib cage
- There is repetitive or deep coughing, OR
- Abnormal nasal discharge

Horses should also be monitored for skin and tissue injury, especially for the first few days after exposure.



UC Davis VMTH Large Animal Clinic
(530) 752-0290 – in house
(530) 752-0292 – field service
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth