

Apple Valley Emergency Preparedness Program

The Apple Valley Office of Emergency Services is administered by a full-time Emergency Services Officer and is a partnership of the Town of Apple Valley and the Apple Valley Fire Protection District.

The Apple Valley Disaster Council and the Apple Valley Citizen Corps Council meet quarterly to discuss and review emergency management programs in the community. Currently, five Citizen Corps volunteer programs are in effect:

1. Community Emergency Response Teams (C.E.R.T.).
2. Emergency Communications Services (E.C.S.)
3. Friends of Animals During Disaster (F.A.D.D.)
4. Citizens on Patrol
5. Neighborhood Watch

Other organizations active in the Disaster Council include Apple Valley Unified School District, Apple Valley Police Department, St. Mary Medical Center, private utilities and non-profit organizations. Apple Valley is committed to making the community a well prepared and safe place to live, work and play.



Town of Apple Valley, California
Office of Emergency Services

For more information on joining the F.A.D.D. volunteer program, please contact:

Laura Whitehead
Emergency Services Officer
Phone: 760-247-7618 Ext.106
Fax: 760-247-3895

E-mail: Lwhitehead@applevalleyfd.com



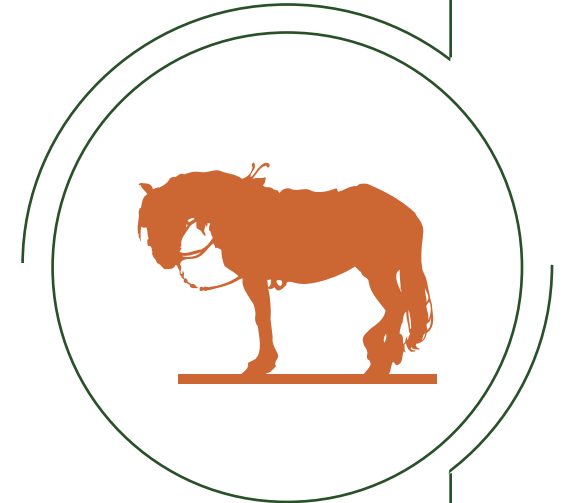
Apple Valley Fire Protection District
22400 Headquarters Drive
Apple Valley, CA 92307

F.A.D.D.

Friends of Animals During Disasters



Animal Emergency Evacuation & Shelter Plan



Town of Apple Valley, California
Office of Emergency Services

Tel: 760-247-7618 ext.106

The Challenge



The challenge for the Town of Apple Valley was to develop a safe and organized method of evacuating and sheltering animals during a disaster. Apple Valley is a city with nearly 17,000 licensed dogs, and between 15% and 20% of its population owns livestock-type animals.

In the Summer of 1999, Apple Valley was affected by the Willow Fire that resulted in over 60,000 acres burned and the loss of a dozen homes.

Animal Control Officers witnessed first-hand the chaos that developed without a definitive animal evacuation and sheltering plan. They also recognized that even in the face of danger, residents are reluctant to evacuate without their animals.



The Solution

The solution was to develop an Animal Emergency Evacuation & Shelter Plan as well as to develop a core group of reliable volunteers to help support it. The Town Council formally approved the Plan in August 2002 as an annex to the *Town of Apple Valley Emergency Operations Plan*. The Plan is a working document which undergoes review after every drill and activation.

The Plan

Elements of the Plan include:

- Pre-designated Evacuation Routes
- Pre-designated Staging Locations
- Pre-designated Shelter Sites
- Shelter Set-up and Layout
- Animal Intake Checklists
- Organizational Chart and Job Descriptions
- Resources ... supply and feed stores, veterinarians, shelters, holding facilities, etc.
- Activation Procedures
- Documentation Procedures
- Communications
- Procedures Pertaining to Donations

The Volunteers

F.A.D.D. (*Friends of Animals During Disasters*) was created to support the Plan upon its activation. Many of the volunteers are members of local equestrian and animal associations; therefore, they have an understanding of animal care and behavior. Upon completion of training, F.A.D.D. volunteers receive a photo identification card and safety vest, and register as Disaster Service Workers with the local Disaster Council accredited with the State of California. The free training includes:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Team Organization (California Standardized Emergency Management System, local EOC Operations and Disaster Service Worker procedures)
- Plan Operations and Procedures
- Tabletop Drill & Critique

The Results



This Plan was the 2004 grand prize winner of the prestigious League of California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Public Safety Excellence. More importantly, the Plan guided the way to a well-managed operation when it was needed the most — during a disaster.

The Test

In October 2003, the Southern California wildfires forced the evacuation of the San Bernardino mountain communities. Thousands of evacuees traveled northwest to the High Desert. Apple Valley helped by providing many resources, including a shelter for livestock-type animals. Over 100 animals were sheltered, secured, and fed for one week at Apple Valley's Horseman's Center. Shelter activities included:

- Directional signs from the foothills to the shelter site
- 24-hour security
- Organized registration and identification process
- Animals housed by compatibility
- Medical care with owner approval
- Proper feeding and caring

Participating agencies that support the efforts of the Town of Apple Valley Animal Care and Control Division include:

- Apple Valley Sheriff's Equestrian Unit
- F.A.D.D. Volunteers
- P.A.L. Humane Society
- Local feed stores
- Local veterinarians