

# **RMER Collective Fire Plan, March 2012**

As part of its responsibility to provide an environment as safe and secure as possible from fire, the Collective Executive Team has created this written plan both to summarize responsibilities related to preparing for a potential fire and to recommend what to do in the event of a fire. Collective members should be prepared to take primary responsibility for the care and evacuation of their horse, if needed.

While the ranch is fortunate to have a cooperative arrangement with Sombrero Ranch to bring their trailers to JAR in the event of a mandated evacuation, their trailers are not always in the county and may not be available. Thus it is necessary for every horse owner to have a personal evacuation plan that can be used if needed. Note that every horse owner who does not have a trailer at the ranch should have lined up a potential driver/trailer to evacuate his or her horse in the event that Sombrero trailers are not available. See Appendix A: Personal Evacuation Form.

## **SCENARIO #1: FIRE IS ON OR IMMEDIATELY APPROACHING JODER RANCH**

If the fire is at or approaching JAR, call 911 to report or confirm it has been reported and tell the 911 operator:

- Where the fire is and what is threatened
- If the wind is blowing and, if you can, what direction it is blowing and approximate speed
- How fast the fire appears to be moving
- How smoky conditions are (heavy, poor visibility, ash raining, etc.)

In the event of a small, localized fire at the ranch, after calling 911, use fire extinguishers located at (TBD) or hoses to try to put out or contain the fire.

After calling 911, call Caroline Roy (303-919-3946) and Wren Schauer (720-351-2210). They will make a judgment regarding initiating the phone tree and calling for a trailer evacuation.

If you are able to remain calm, quietly halter and move horses away from the immediate vicinity of the fire. Do not mix herds, if possible. If there is not time to collect a horse's own web halter, use the nearest available halter, and swap halters out at a later time. There will be a central supply of halters in the south barn in the event of this kind of immediate emergency where there might not be time to match halters with horses.

Otherwise, a web halter with each horse's name on it should be located on the pen where each horse lives. It is EVERYONE's responsibility (but especially the owner's) to ensure that each horse has a web halter with a name tag on it hanging on the pen where the horse lives.

## **SCENARIO #2: FIRE IS WITHIN 3 MILES OF JODER RANCH**

Caroline Roy or Wren Schauer will send an email to everyone in the RMER/JAR community (Larry Langer will be called) to provide accurate information about the fire (obtained from Joe Roy/Joe Pelle and Wren's firefighter source) at that point and advise what steps the ranch is taking and what to expect. They will monitor the fire's progress using these sources and keep the community up to date regarding the ranch's plans. An excellent official source for information about fires and other emergency situations is the county's emergency website at <http://www.boulderoem.com/emergency-status>.

Caroline will notify Sombrero Ranch that there is a fire that could cause a potential evacuation and ask them to be on standby. Julie Rudy will call Christy Cramer, who is scheduled to take 6 horses in her trailer, to ask her to stand by. Other horse owners should also notify their haulers to be on standby.

The RMER policy is to not evacuate horses unless ordered by the sheriff's animal control division to do so. However, any member of the community may choose to initiate his or her own personal fire plan and evacuate his or her horse. If you elect to do that by calling someone from off the ranch, please be clear that you are evacuating as a personal choice and that an official evacuation has not been called for. We do not want trailers from the general public to begin to come to the ranch uncalled for. Generally, if any equines are threatened from a fire in Boulder County, the Boulder County Fairgrounds will be opened.

## **SCENARIO #3: MANDATED EVACUATION**

If the Sheriff's Animal Control division mandates that our horses must be evacuated from the ranch, Caroline and Julie will initiate the phone tree to so notify horse owners. (See Appendix B: Phone Tree.)

**In the event of an official evacuation for all horses, please go to the ranch to take primary responsibility for your horse as soon as you receive your call via the phone tree or otherwise learn about a mandated ranch evacuation. If you are unable to get to the ranch, please contact your agent and ask him or her to do so.**

If available, Sombrero Ranch trailers will go to the ranch to evacuate horses to the Fairgrounds and owners should also carry out their personal evacuation plans. (Note that some owners will opt to use their own trailers or other loaders they have lined up even if Sombrero trailers are available.) The Joder Ranch trailer will also be used for evacuation provided it is on site at the time of a fire. We will also expect to use trailers that belong to Collective members to trailer additional horses as much as possible.

Members should ensure that their horses will load readily and safely to protect all those volunteering to assist with the evacuation. This means that members will need to practice loading and unloading their horse(s) to be ready in case of a fire.

If your horse is already evacuated before you are able to go to the ranch, please go immediately to the Boulder County Fairgrounds to see to their welfare and check them in with the evacuation personnel at the Fairgrounds. *While your horse is evacuated, please see to their feed and water and clean their stall. This is primarily your responsibility.*

### **Roles of Horse Owners in an Evacuation:**

#### Communications\_\_\_\_\_

- Make sure all contacts in the phone tree were notified
- Make sure Bob and Pat have been notified, and assign someone to check on Bob and have him ready to leave, if needed.
- Locate checklist in lounge and check off horse owners' names as you hear from them or see them at the ranch
- Follow up and contact owners who have not arrived or whose agents have not arrived at the ranch

#### Traffic control\_\_\_\_\_

- Set up loading area for the arrival of trailers for evacuation at the top of the drive next to wash rack. The trailer exit after loading will be the Wright Ranch road.
- Arrange for someone to go to ranch entrance to direct trailers, traffic
- Arrange for safe parking of owners' vehicles on highway if Sheriff does not permit entry to ranch

#### Horse handling \_\_\_\_\_

- Ensure that owners/agents halter horses they are responsible for and prepare them for loading.
- Use checklist from lounge to check off horses as they are loaded.
- Assist, as needed, with loading horses.

#### Fairgrounds coordination: Wren Schauer

- Have a copy of the checklist and check off horses as they arrive.
- Coordinate operations with evacuation personnel at Fairgrounds, and station a ranch member at the Fairgrounds entrance to direct trailers onto the grounds.
- Make sure horses are safely unloaded and stalled and see to their water if the owner/agent is not present.
- Make sure each horse's stall has a sheet posted with his/her name, owner's name, and Joder Ranch.
- **If you opt to trailer your horse to a location other than the Fairgrounds, be sure to let the Fairgrounds coordinator know this!**

## Appendix B: Phone Tree for Evacuation

**Caroline, Wren, and Julie will have been communicating regarding the fire. Wren and Caroline will have first-hand accurate information about the fire through Joe (police connection) and fire officer (Wren's friend). Caroline or Julie will be responsible for communicating via email in early stages – plan is to stay put unless evacuation is mandated. Caroline calls Sombrero to ask them to be on stand-by and Julie calls Christy Cramer for the same purpose. Allen and Larry are also called to be on alert with their trailers.**

### **In the event of a mandated evacuation:**

**Caroline** calls:        Sombrero        303-717-1400; or 1401; or 1410  
                                 Dan                303-818-5119 (cell)  
                                 Karen E.        720-308-5608 (cell)

**Dan** calls:                Greg                303-859-5393 (cell)  
                                 Pat J-C            303-442-7891 (home)  
                                 Bob                303-442-6957 (home)  
                                 Rachael H.      303-589-7205 (w); 303-589-7205 (h)  
                                 South trailer tenants: Mikhal 720-999-5047; Elad 720-999-5038  
                                 JAR house tenants: Sarah 720-947-9176

**Julie** calls:             Robin                303-999-7285 (cell)  
                                 Larry                303-443-1822 (work); 720-406-7897 (home)  
                                 Allen                303-956-9325 (cell)  
                                 Ginny                303-938-8432 (home)

**Robin** calls:            Alexa                303-437-9221 (cell)  
                                 Camilla            949-326-3079 (cell)

Other calls to be made (not an emergency – but should be informed):

Brianna	303-881-1806 (cell)	Haley	760-415-8674
Max	484-885-3694 (cell)	Tamira	505-577-0502
Liz	720-256-9860 (cell)		

Sombrero Ranch contacts (need Caroline's authorization to call):

Mark Bishop 303-717-1400; Dan Bishop 303-717-1401; Britta Bishop 303-717-1410

NOTE: As of February, the following horses are scheduled to go with Christy Cramer:

Hannah (pen 8/9)	Winnie (ICP1, pen 7 turnout)
Tara (ICP2, pen 7 turnout)	Eeyore (pen 2)
Tommy Joe (ICP3, pen 7 turnout)	Sassy (pen 2)

Kirk (ICP4, pen 7 turnout) is scheduled to trailer in Allen's trailer or if Allen is not available to go with Sombrero or in JAR trailer; Grey (pen 8/9) is scheduled to go in Larry's trailer or if Larry is not available to go with Sombrero or in JAR trailer. The following horses can be trailered by either Sombrero or in the JAR trailer (two to three trips if not an urgent evacuation):

Pen 8/9:

Tucker

Smudge

Chair

Lily

Dream

Jasara

Grey and/or Kirk (If owners can't get to the ranch to use their trailers)

Pen 4:

Toby

Beau

Other trailers that can be called for evacuation if necessary:

Molly Elliott 720-935-7522

Wiley Gillmor 303-517-8481

Susan O'Kelly 720-771-6429

## Appendix B: Personal Evacuation Form

Horse's name:

Horse's description:

Horse's location:

Owner's name:

Cell phone:

Work phone:

Home phone:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be loading my horse(s) in the event of an evacuation.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be having my agent load my horse(s) in the event of an evacuation.

Agent's name and phone number:

- I have a trailer at the ranch and will use it to evacuate my horse
- I am OK with Sombrero Ranch trailering my horse if they are available (understanding that their trailers for the most part are stock trailers without dividers). However, if Sombrero trailers are not available, I have made arrangements for the following person to use his/her trailer to evacuate my horse from the ranch (please include person's name and phone number):
- I prefer that my horse not evacuate in Sombrero trailers so even if they are available I have made arrangements for the following person to use her/his trailer to evacuate my horse (please include person's name and phone number)

Please describe your horse's trailer loading ability, including how readily (or not) your horse will load, if s/he won't load in certain types of trailers, if s/he requires special handling, and so forth.

My horse does not load well, but I have worked with a professional to help mitigate this:

- yes                       no                       I plan to do this ASAP

- ( ) I will be evacuating my horse to the Boulder County Fairgrounds
- ( ) I will evacuate my horse to this other location:
- ( ) I will be responsible for the care of my horse(s) at the Fairgrounds
- ( ) If I cannot care for my horse at the Fairgrounds the following person will be caring for my horse (please include name and contact phone number):

I would be willing to help others in the following situations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Loading horses at the ranch for evacuation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Taking care of horses needs at the Fairgrounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Helping load horses for the return to the ranch.

\_\_\_\_\_ Helping unload horses at the ranch and returning them to their pens.

Comments

Signature of owner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_