



Serving the Horse Industry Since 1935

Disaster Response Team

April 2023

Disaster Response Team

The Minnesota Horse Council Disaster Response Team was organized in the spring of 1997 during the devastating floods in the Red River Valley. With the working team of WSCA and the MHC, volunteers were quickly brought together by the immediate need to find space, feed, and care for many horses displaced by flooding almost beyond imagination. The Council then formally founded the Natural Disaster Response Team to make responses easier and more directed. Since then, the committee has tried to create a network of volunteers throughout the state.

The committee works with MNVOAD (Minnesota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) as well as with state and federal agencies and county emergency centers. The operation centers in a natural or man-made disaster must be made aware that the Disaster team is available to help out wherever possible. Information about the team has been furnished to county response managers so that they can call on experienced, trained volunteers to work with horses. Everywhere the Council goes to promote itself there is a volunteer to promote the Disaster team and how it works. We help the community as a **whole**...we do no rescuing nor do we take away any horses from their owners. We help only if we are called upon to help or ask if we can help. We **do not deploy** any volunteers unless we have been given permission from the community leader.

The committee is developing information to help horse owners prepare for those rare occurrences when outside help is needed on an immediate basis. Such things as early warnings of possible flooding and particularly early warnings for the possibility of fire will allow those responsible for their own horses to move them, and if need be with help from volunteers, from the area before a full-blown crisis occurs.

If you would like more information please call:

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