



Be prepared!

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) encourages anyone who has returned home conditionally to make sure you have plans in place for your animals should you need to re-evacuate.

If you have not yet returned to your home, and are returning daily, ensure you leave enough food and water for 2-3 days should the cordons close at short notice.

How to prepare in case you need to evacuate

Planning ahead saves animals' lives. Same as you do with your family's Emergency Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your animals – food, water and warmth.

If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you – if you can do so safely – or take them to a safe shelter place. If you have to leave your animals behind, make sure they're in a safe place, well away from any fire risk, such as a recently ploughed paddock.

Safer areas should be away from dense vegetation, scrub, bush or forest - anything that will fuel a fire. Safer areas should be fenced, have water supply, short pasture, and protection from radiant heat.

Farmers and lifestyle block owners should identify alternative escape routes from their property in case the main access is blocked, or make sure they have another plan, such as a safer area or access to sprinklers if these are available. You should check you have an appropriate vehicle to transport animals, and animals need access to clean, uncontaminated feed and water until they can be returned to their paddocks.

If you stay on your property, you should check all animals are contained and that fences have not been destroyed by fire. Opening gates gives stock easy access to safe ground, but do not open gates onto roadways or cut roadside fences. Protect your fences from fire by keeping grass away.

If you have to evacuate your animals, check you have an appropriate vehicle to transport them to a safe shelter place or ask your neighbours if they're able to contain them on their property.

If you need any support regarding the welfare of your animals please call MPI on 0800 008 333, option 4. The team will take down details and send it to the team in Nelson to triage.

For more information on planning for major disasters that could affect your family and animals, visit <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-emergencies>

ENDS