

Emergency Checklist

Securing Water and Feed

If waterers, lights or phones stop working, horses still need reliable care. Go through this list together with the stable operator and keep a printed copy of your arrangements at the stable.

Stable / location: _____

01 Water – the most important supply

- We know whether our waterers and well work without electricity.
- The daily water requirement of all horses has been calculated; additional needs during hot weather and for horses with special requirements are included.
- Clean, suitable water containers and enough drinking buckets are available.
- We have decided how water will reach every horse without an electric pump.
- An alternative water source has been checked for suitability, accessibility and use without electricity. Rainwater, streams and ponds are not automatically suitable.
- It is clear who checks water levels, cleanliness and access for every horse.

Stored water is sufficient for: _____

Alternative supply: _____

Important: The calculated requirement is for preparedness planning, not a drinking ration. Sufficient clean water must remain available.

02 Feed and daily care

- Stocks of the horses' usual forage and any essential special feed are known.
- Feed can be accessed and distributed without electric gates, automatic feeders or machinery.
- Feeding plans and each horse's individual requirements are available on paper.
- Buckets, wheelbarrows, hand tools and bedding are accessible; manual mucking-out is organised.

Feed supplies are sufficient for: _____

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Organising Safe Accommodation and Care

03 Safe accommodation without mains electricity

- Electric doors and gates can be opened safely by hand; the responsible people know how to release them.
- Electric fencing has a tested independent power supply, or a suitable, securely fenced alternative area is available.
- Horses can reach water, feed and shelter even if automated access systems fail.
- Any necessary ventilation is maintained without mains electricity.
- Head torches, spare batteries, headcollars and lead ropes are readily available.

Fire safety: No candles or open flames in the stable. Fuel-powered generators must be used outdoors, away from building openings. A qualified electrician must handle any connection to the building's electrical installation.

04 Care when owners cannot get to the stable

- An on-site carer and a backup person have been named for every horse.
- Care is arranged even if owners cannot travel or be reached by phone.
- Responsibilities for water, feeding, checks and record-keeping are assigned.
- Keys, access permissions and any necessary authorisations are arranged in advance.
- A fixed place for written messages and a daily meeting time have been agreed.

Person responsible: _____

Backup person: _____

Message point: _____

Meeting time: _____

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Protecting Health and Testing the Plan

05 Health and essential help

- A well-maintained equine first-aid kit and bandaging supplies are available.
- Essential medicines, dosing instructions and storage requirements have been agreed with the veterinary practice.
- Medical conditions, allergies and special needs are recorded on each horse's information sheet.
- Veterinary contact details, the stable address and directions are printed and readily available.
- We have discussed contact arrangements or places to seek help with the veterinary practice in advance, in case communications fail.
- A transport plan is in place, including suitable people, a vehicle and a trailer, where conditions allow transport.

If acute health problems arise: Seek veterinary help promptly. Do not give medication or attempt procedures based on guesswork.

06 Walk through the plan together

- We have checked: how would every horse receive water and feed today if no electrical equipment were available?
- Each identified gap has a person responsible and a completion deadline.
- We review the plan together regularly and whenever circumstances change.

The three most important outstanding tasks

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Reviewed on: _____

Next review: _____

Source guidance (German): BBK, "Vorsorge und Handeln bei Stromausfall" (bbk.bund.de); Coesfeld district, "Tierversorgung – Stromausfall" (kreis-coesfeld.de); Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture, "Was Sie über Pferdehaltung wissen sollten" (lwk-niedersachsen.de). September 2026.