

# **Joder Arabian Ranch Fire Plan**

## **Summer 2005**

**A**s part of its responsibility to provide an environment as safe and secure as possible from fire, the Joder Arabian Ranch has created this written plan to summarize both ranch and boarder responsibilities and recommend what to do in the event of a fire, projecting two scenarios that could occur: (1) a fire that might occur on the ranch itself, either in the barn area or elsewhere on the ranch; or (2) a wildfire burning elsewhere in the county (probably within 3-5 miles) that is threatening to travel toward the ranch.

Clearly, if a fire starts at JAR, whether in the barn or on the mountain, it is probably not reasonable to consider a trailer evacuation of horses, since the ranch does not have enough trailers on site to accommodate the evacuation of all horses and there would not be time to bring in trailers from the outside. Trying to bring in trailers to evacuate when fire department personnel are arriving for an immediate fire situation makes no sense. Thus the most important part of the plan in this event is to activate horse handling procedures, which deals with trying to ensure the safety of the horses when a fire starts on the ranch.

Evacuation is a more likely scenario when a wildfire is approaching the ranch from a distance and there would be time to enact an evacuation with the support of the Boulder County Horse Association/Boulder County Sheriff Mounted Search & Rescue (BCHA/MSR) evacuation program. As a rule, Joder Ranch's policy is to not evacuate horses in this scenario (wildfire in the distance) unless the sheriff or fire department mandates such an evacuation if the fire is imminently threatening the ranch; that is, because of the potential of harm to horses in an evacuation situation, this is not something the ranch will opt to do lightly or "just in case." However, past experience has shown that some boarders will not want to wait for an official evacuation and may wish to have a personal plan in place to evacuate their horse(s) even when a fire may still be well in the distance and not be immediately threatening the ranch. Thus any JAR boarder will have the option of having a personal plan in place for an early evacuation of their horse(s) to a place of their choosing (see details below), and a plan for the return of their horse(s) to the ranch.

### **I. Planning Ahead**

The Joder Arabian Ranch will ensure that its written fire plan is distributed to all JAR boarders, ranch personnel, the Left Hand Fire District, and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office. The fire plan will be included in materials given to new boarders and they will be asked to complete a designated form to convey information about their horse's trailer-loading ability and their personal wishes in the event of a wildfire potentially threatening the ranch. The JAR fire plan will be reviewed and updated as needed at least annually

and all fire-plan-related lists, maps, and other materials will be kept up to date on an ongoing basis. JAR will keep the Left Hand Fire District fire chief and the sheriff's office apprised of JAR fire plans and fire-related activities.

## **A. Ranch Responsibilities**

The Joder Arabian Ranch will be responsible for the following:

- Each spring, devote as many workdays as needed to clearing vegetation and raking dried hay deposits and other fire mitigation activities
- Initiate controlled burns on the advice of the fire chief; consider conducting fire drills.
- Keep hay from collecting around pens and prevent other hazardous fire conditions from developing.
- Remove sawdust and other hazardous materials (gas, propane, and so forth) as needed or make them as secure as possible from potential fire
- Make fire extinguishers available in the event of a fire in the barn or pen areas. Keep fire-fighting equipment and supplies in working order. Make sure fire extinguishers are fully charged, checking them every 12 months for proper charge, and post a map in strategic places that shows the location of all fire extinguishers.
- Prohibit smoking in or around the barn. A discarded cigarette can ignite dry bedding or hay in seconds.
- Avoid parking tractors and vehicles in or near the barn. Engine heat and backfires can spark a flame. Also store other machinery and flammable materials outside the barn.
- Inspect electrical systems regularly and immediately correct any problems. Rodents can chew on electrical wiring and cause damage that quickly becomes a fire hazard. Inspect all electrical systems every three months for the following:
  - Service boxes should be kept dry and dust free. They should be mounted at least five feet off the ground on fire-resistant materials.
  - Electrical fixtures should be free of dust, dirt, cobwebs, hay, and other combustible materials.
  - Never use an extension cord as an electrical line on a permanent basis. Additional lines should be installed by a licensed electrician and conform to local and/or state electrical codes.
- Keep appliances to a minimum in the barn.
- Be sure hay is dry before storing it. Hay that is too moist may spontaneously combust. Store hay outside the barn in a dry, covered area.
- Keep aisles, stall doors, and barn doors free of debris and equipment. Keep debris from accumulating under trees. Debris can include manure and bedding that have been used for mulch.
- Keep trees properly trimmed and pruned so that branches do not touch or hang over buildings.
- Have a planned evacuation route for every stall in the barn and familiarize employees and horse handlers with such evacuation route plans.
- Post emergency telephone numbers at each phone and each entrance, including the number of the barn manager, veterinarian, emergency response, and horse handlers.
- Keep the ranch's street address clearly posted near the phone to relay to the 911

operator and be sure the ranch address and the entrance are clearly visible from the main road. Post an excerpt of the section of the fire plan called “Fire on the Ranch” including the 911 fire reporting procedures next to the phone and in other key areas.

- Consider installing smoke alarms and heat detectors throughout the barn. New heat sensors can detect rapidly changing temperatures. The heat sensors can be hooked up to sirens that will quickly alert about a possible barn fire.
- Consider hosting an open house for emergency services personnel to familiarize them with the layout of the ranch.
- Check for alternate water sources in case power is lost and pumps and automatic waterers are not working after a fire. Consider a generator for refrigeration, cooling, heating and lights. Store fuel for a generator away from outbuildings and dwellings.
- Keep a supply of flashlight batteries handy.
- Keep two first-aid kits stocked, one for humans and one for horses.
- Research and consider purchasing fire-retardant foam to spray on hay in the event of a fire threatening the ranch.

In addition, the ranch will ensure the collection and ready availability (for example, in a “fire chest” that can be easily moved) in case of fire of the following information, to be immediately placed in the JAR Command Center if a wildfire is threatening:

- A notebook containing a form completed by every boarder which conveys their wishes about evacuating their horse(s).
- A notebook with an exit sheet for each horse on the ranch to be evacuated to be used in case of an evacuation.
- Multiple copies of lists of the horses boarded at JAR by stall / pen and by alphabet.
- Multiple copies of an alphabetical list of all boarders by boarder name and by horse name with ready contact information.
- Maps showing the location of all fire fighting-related equipment, as well as sources of combustion and the location of all shut-offs.
- Maps showing all trails and roads by name and distances.
- Multiple copies of a map showing all structures, at least one of which will show which structures are a priority for defense so that the firefighters will know where to put their resources.

Finally, the ranch will provide an opportunity for trailer-loading practice either through an annual special clinic or the ongoing availability of an instructor who can work with boarders whose horses may not load readily.

## **B. Boarder Responsibilities**

Boarders of horses at the JAR will have the following responsibilities:

- Be aware of and familiar with the Joder fire plan and policies.
- Have an emergency kit(s) prepared and available should an evacuation be needed (see Appendix A of this fire plan for a list of suggested kit contents).
- Have decided whether or not to go to the ranch in the event of a fire.
- Have considered the options available with regard to evacuation and made a decision

regarding early evacuation versus evacuation only in event of an order from the sheriff's department (or electing not to evacuate a horse under any circumstances).

- Have made your personal fire plan known to the ranch by completing a form designated for this purpose. If you plan an early evacuation, this form will need to provide details of who will trailer your horse(s) from and back to the ranch and to what location the horse(s) will be evacuated.
- Have worked with your horse(s) to ensure that it/they will load readily in a trailer in an emergency situation.
- Have familiarized your horses with emergency procedures and common activities they would encounter during an emergency, especially to have desensitized them to flashlights and flashing lights and to have handled them at night.
- Have conditioned your horse to strange clothing or appearances and other unusual conditions or activities, moving your horse to strange areas, perhaps simulating a fire drill or emergency situation.
- Keep an inventory and photos of your horse equipment, halters, saddles, bridles, and so forth in a secure place other than where you keep them at the ranch.
- Have placed a tag on your halter that provides identifying and contact information about you and your horse.

## **II. Fire on the Ranch**

### **FIRST AND FOREMOST, CALL 911!**

If you spot a fire on the property of Joder Arabian Ranch, immediately call 911. A good size-up of the situation is critical. An elaborate description is not necessary; it's best to listen to what the 911 operator asks and not get excited. It is important to give good information, not overestimate the situation, and stay calm. Be prepared to report the following to the 911 operator:

- where the fire is and what is being threatened
- what direction the wind is blowing
- the speed of the fire
- smoky conditions (heavy smoke or not, whether it's on the ground or eye level)
- color of the smoke (there is a big difference between black and white smoke; structures burn black smoke, indicating much more trouble)
- whether the fire is in the barn, the trees, the pastures, the pens, and/or headed towards timber

If barn manager Caroline Roy is on the property, make sure she is informed about the fire immediately. She is the most likely person to make the 911 call if this won't result in any lost time. In her absence, do not hesitate to make the call to 911 for firefighter help. Also immediately inform Greg Joder, ranch manager; Bob Joder, owner; Alfredo Castillo and Jesus Manuel Calderon (ranch hands); and Bob's sister, Pat Joder Cox, who also lives on the property.

**Contact Information:**

Caroline Roy, Barn Manager – cell phone 303-919-3946; home phone 303-652-0766

Greg Joder, Ranch Manager – cell phone 303-859-5393

Bob Joder, Owner – 303-449-6040

Alfredo Castillo – 303-442-9149

Jesus Manuel Calderon – 303-6840559

**A. Fire in the Barn Area**

After calling 911 and ensuring that ranch leadership is engaged, as above:

- find the nearest fire extinguisher, water supply, and/or tools and, if it is safe to do so, that is, the fire is not raging out of control, begin to work to put out the fire while waiting for firefighters to arrive
- move any horses that are in their stalls or in the barn area (tied up in the tacking area) as quickly and calmly as possible to a safe area; do not mix herds (see Appendix B for horse handling recommendations)
- clear any vehicles that might become obstacles for fire trucks upon their arrival or firefighting equipment that will need to be deployed

**IMPORTANT:** Firefighters should arrive in about seven minutes. Once firefighters arrive, they will be completely in charge of the fire. Boarders and/or ranch hands should not expect to help fight a fire. This is the job of trained fire personnel. The role of boarders and ranch personnel is to manage and move horses as needed and not interfere in any way with the firefighting.

**B. Fire on the Mountain or in the Pastures**

After calling 911 and ensuring key ranch leadership is engaged, as above:

- move any horses that are in their stalls or in the barn area (tied up in the tacking area) as quickly and calmly as possible to their normal turnout pens if these areas are deemed safe; otherwise carry out horse handling recommendations (see Appendix B) for when a trailer evacuation is deemed not feasible (that is, when firefighters are already on their way to the ranch and there is not enough time to activate trailer evacuation without getting in the way of firefighters)
- clear any vehicles that might become obstacles for fire trucks upon their arrival or firefighting equipment that will need to be deployed
- monitor the horses, being on the lookout for horses disturbed by the increased activity
- await further directives of ranch leadership as described below

### **III. Wildfire in the Distance**

As has been the case in the past, a wildfire can occur many miles from the ranch but because of wind shifts and crowning conditions there may be a potential danger of the fire continuing to rage and turning in the direction of the ranch. In this situation, there is first a standby response during which time evaluations are made with regard to whether or not a formal trailer evacuation is called for. The following are activities that the ranch has deemed to be an effective approach when a wildfire is threatening from afar, beginning with a standby-level response and escalating to a full trailer evacuation if officially mandated by the sheriff.

#### **A. Standby Level Response**

##### ***Step 1: Establish JAR Command Center, Chain of Command and Communications***

The JAR Command Center will be established in the JAR lounge under the leadership of Greg Joder and Caroline Roy, with Bob Joder present if possible for advice and consultation. Items that need to be immediately brought to this area if not already there include the following:

- Maps of the property showing terrain, roads, trails, and buildings
- Notebook that contains one sheet per horse with information about evacuation preferences and trailer-loading worthiness
- Notebook with sheets prepared in advance for recording information about horses that may exit the ranch in a trail evacuation situation
- Copy of the *JAR Fire Plan* for reference

The leadership at the JAR Command Center will immediately:

- Establish who will be responsible for making various decisions as well as communicating those decisions to the fire chief and sheriff.
- Designate and send an individual to the sheriff's command center to form the most effective two-way communication with those officials

It is critical that this leadership and chain of command be communicated to all JAR personnel and boarders who come to the ranch to avoid conflict or indecision. Only the established leadership may activate an official evacuation plan which would engage the Boulder County Horse Association/Mounted Search & Rescue emergency trailer evacuation procedures.

The JAR Command Center will need to communicate continually not only with the sheriff and fire chief but with boarders through the reverse 911 system, with boarders who are on site to help with horses, with an official BCHA contact to keep this organization informed of potential evacuation (see contact information below), and with any other parties that may become involved.

##### ***Step 2: Activate Reverse 911 System***

JAR has implemented a "reverse 911" communication system (called the Intrado Intellicast Call List) to keep members of the JAR community informed of what is

happening in the event of any ranch emergency. The call list includes every phone number provided to JAR by boarders, leasers, students, and instructors which the ranch has passed on to Intrado so that all the numbers on the list can be automatically called at high speed in the event of an emergency. This rapid communication system was used very successfully during the Overland fire and is ready to be used if needed again.

The call list is held by Intrado and only utilized when a designated, authorized representative of JAR chooses to activate the reverse 911 option. In the case of a fire potentially threatening the ranch, the designated JAR representative will call Intrado and record a message to be delivered via the JAR list. The ranch maintains a list in priority order of designated, authorized individuals so that if the first person on the list is not available, the second or if necessary third individual can activate the system.

The information in such messages can include everything from a “fire is no threat” communication, to specific instructions for JAR boarders, to information relayed from the sheriff or fire chief mandating evacuation. Multiple messages may be sent during any given situation to keep everyone on the call list updated as a situation may change.

It is very important for all members of the JAR community to keep the ranch updated with regard to their most current work, home, and cell phone numbers!

### ***Step 3: Assign Tasks as Needed***

Some of the tasks that might be assigned by the JAR Command Center include:

- Get the list of current boarders in alphabetical order by last name into the hands of the sheriff in case of a roadblock and request that those on the list be allowed through the roadblock to act as horse handlers at the ranch. (Fire Chief Nyquist has assured that this would be possible.)
- Designate someone to be responsible for taking all calls coming into the barn.
- Designate someone to meet boarders as they arrive, to be sure they check into the JAR Command Center for direction and to be assigned tasks as the need arises. This person should make a list of boarders who come to the ranch, recording their cell phone numbers to facilitate communication with them around the ranch.
- Assign people to monitor the status of horses and to report back to leadership as horses’ needs or the situation changes.
- Assign someone to visually monitor the fire if possible (for example, from the top of Joder Mountain) and determine method and frequency of communication from this person.
- If deemed necessary, assign people to wet down the diesel fuel area and other potential flammable areas.

### ***Step 4: Oversee Personal Evacuations***

- Review the personal boarder plans in the notebook and contact boarders who have personal early evacuation plans to establish whether they plan to execute them and when.

- Coordinate these evacuations to ensure that they take place in an orderly fashion with regard to access and egress of trailers to and from the ranch, place for loading, completion of exit sheets for each horse evacuated, and so forth.
- Ensure that early evacuation plans include a plan for the return of horses to JAR.

***Step 5: Prepare for Possible Official Evacuation***

If it is likely that an evacuation will be ordered, there are some things that can be done in the meantime that will facilitate the evacuation should it occur.

- Designate one individual (probably Caroline Roy) to coordinate efforts with the BCHA/MSR volunteers who will arrive to evacuate horses if this plan is activated.
- Identify personnel and boarders present at the ranch who are good horse handlers who can assist in loading horses into trailers in the event that an evacuation is mandated. (Boarders with horses that are difficult to load may be in a better position to load their own animals and should be prepared to do so if present at the ranch.)
- Consult the notebooks that provide detailed information regarding how readily horses load into trailers and prepare a priority-order list for loading, beginning with easy loaders in order to move as many horses as quickly as possible.
- Begin to have identifying information painted on the side or hooves of each animal (at a minimum write “JAR”).

**B. Official Evacuation Response**

In conjunction with the Boulder County Sheriff Mounted Search & Rescue program, the Boulder County Horse Association has developed a program that provides qualified personnel and qualified trailers to assist in the evacuation by trailer of horses from properties in Boulder County that are threatened by fire. The sheriff’s office has provided individual volunteer training as well as trailer inspection services to ensure that all individuals and vehicles involved meet the standards of the BCHA/MSR program. In a forced evacuation, Boulder County Fairgrounds at Nelson Road and Hover Street in Longmont will be the official destination. It is to this destination unless otherwise ordered by the sheriff that horses will be trailered from JAR.

The JAR official representative at the sheriff’s command center will communicate immediately with the JAR Command Center should an official evacuation order be given by the sheriff.

***Step 1: Call for BCHA/Mounted Search & Rescue Evacuation Support***

- Coordinate with the sheriff’s command center to activate the BCHA/MSR evacuation support plan. BCHA contacts include Pat Jarvis (303-247-0667 or 303-912-6738), Kathie Hibbard (303-682-5315), Suzanne Webel (303-485-2162) or Hildy Armour (303-442-3293 or 720-480-6856).
- Determine in conjunction with the sheriff where the trailers should be directed for loading as well as the route the trailers should take coming into and leaving the ranch, depending on traffic/road conditions in the area.



***Step 2: Communicate the Evacuation Order via Reverse 911***

A new message will need to be created for the reverse 911 system and an Intrado call will need to go out informing boarders of the evacuation order should they wish to come to the ranch to personally load their horse(s). This call may also result in additional trailers that are not on the official BCHA/MSR list heading for the ranch.

***Step 3: Carry Out the Evacuation***

- Have ready the overall list (prepared in advance) of all horses on the ranch and their location as well as the notebook with “exit” sheets.
- Bring horses a few at a time to the designated area(s) for loading. Use the priority list (see above) to determine the order that horses will be evacuated.
- Help BCHA/MSR personnel load horses into the trailers as calmly and safely as possible.
- Record the exit information on the designated sheets as each trailer of horses leaves the ranch, logging the name of horse and owner, name of trailer driver and license plate number, and departure time and destination for each horse that is loaded for evacuation
- Move horses that will not load or horses whose owners do not wish them to be evacuated, even when mandated, to a designated place on the ranch where they will be as safe as possible or, if feasible, lead them by hand off the ranch to a place designated in advance for this purpose (for example, Schooley’s or West Beech or north to the neighborhood south of Crestview if these areas are not also threatened).

***Step 4: Coordinate with the Boulder County Fairgrounds***

The JAR Command Center leadership will need to send a designated person to the Fairgrounds to coordinate at that location the arrival and dispersal of JAR horses. But each boarder will also need to go to the Fairgrounds if at all possible, taking their evacuation kit, to see to their horse’s welfare. (See Appendix C for details concerning Trailer Evacuation and Boulder County Fairgrounds and post-evacuation follow-up.)

## **Appendix A:**

### **Assembling an Emergency Kit / Identifying Your Horse**

Some things you should do to facilitate an emergency evacuation, development of a complete emergency evacuation kit, and ready identification of your horse:

- Place a permanent tag with your name and phone number and the horse's name on your horse's halter.
- Permanently identify your horse by tattoo, microchip, brand, tag, photograph (4 views-front, rear, left and right side) and/or drawing. Record its age, sex, breed, and color with your record of this identification. Keep a copy of this information in your emergency kit.
- Be sure your horses' vaccination and medical records are written and up-to-date. At a minimum, each horse should have a current Coggins test documented. Check with your veterinarian as to what immunizations are advisable. Have documentation in your evacuation kit of any medicines with dosing instructions, special feeding instructions and the name and phone number of the veterinarian who dispensed the drug.

Prepare an emergency evacuation kit containing the following:

- Five-gallon water bucket with double ended snap
- Feed bucket with double ended snap
- Colorado Brand Card for each horse (to provide proof of ownership) and other horse identification documentation, as suggested above
- Documentation of horse's immunizations as suggested above (required by the Fairgrounds)
- Any medication the horse may require
- Special feed (other than hay) that the horse may be on
- Fire resistant non-nylon lead and halter, hopefully with an identifying tag as suggested above
- First aid items for human and horse
- Flashlight
- Sharp Knife

## **Appendix B: Horse Handling in the Event of a Fire at JAR**

During a fire emergency, it may not always be possible to carry out a full trailer evacuation of all horses at the ranch. Some horses simply may refuse to load, others may have been deemed better off remaining at the ranch, and it simply may be the case that it is too late (or premature) for a full-scale evacuation. It is wise, then, to be prepared and have at least general parameters in place to deal with handling horses in a situation short of trailer evacuation.

It is not unusual for horses to be unwilling to leave their stalls or corrals, especially in an emergency situation where they will be sensitive to strange conditions and possible panic in the air. If fire or smoke is a danger to them in their usual areas, however, they will have to be led out and placed in secured areas, to be determined by the situation.

Note that it is not possible to dictate in advance exactly where horses will need to be as this will be determined by the specific situation, but one obvious rule of thumb would be to place horses as far as possible from potential fire. The default at JAR, if these areas are deemed to be safe, are that stall horses would be turned out as usual to Pen 1 and any other horses placed in their turnout pens or left in their own dry-lot pens. If these areas are deemed unsafe, other potential areas for relocating horses would be outdoor arenas and/or round pens, but care must be taken not to mix herds. It is the ranch leadership at the JAR Command Center who should make these decisions.

In handling horses in these lead-out situations:

- If there is time, consult the notebooks at the JAR Command Center for information about each pen and horse. It will be helpful to know the “leader” horse in each pen and to take that horse first to facilitate the other horses’ willingness to follow.
- Stay as calm as possible. Horses are sensitive to the emotions of their handlers so it is important to quietly lead the horses to the safe area without causing them to panic.
- Care should be taken to always have enough halters for horses readily available at every pen for quick leading out in an emergency situation.
- Blindfold horses only if absolutely necessary. Many horses will balk at a blindfold, making evacuation more difficult and time consuming.
- Never let horses loose in an area where they are able to return to the barn.

## **Appendix C:**

# **Trailer Evacuation and Boulder County Fairgrounds**

### **A. Preparing to Go to the Fairgrounds**

An adequate number of experienced horse-handling Joder boarders should be ready to proceed to the Boulder County Fairgrounds in the event that horses are evacuated to that location. These individuals should be prepared to stay several hours or longer; should have warm clothing, including a hat and gloves, as it can become very cool in the evening. One of these individuals should be designated as in charge, to represent the Joder Ranch as its agent.

At the time of departure, these individuals should have, or have arranged for the following:

- Cell phone with all relevant Joder cell phone numbers
- Extra halters (tack room, purple tub)
- Manure forks and tubs
- A small amount of sweet feed
- An equine first-aid kit
- 2-3 bales of hay
- Bedding-shavings or straw
- Clipboard
- Spreadsheet of JAR boarders and leasers with contact information
- Pen and paper
- Duct tape
- Several five-gallon water buckets with double-ended snaps
- Coolers and/or horse blankets if fall or winter weather conditions

### **B. At the Fairgrounds**

- Check with whoever is in charge, and notify of the number of horses to arrive and when.
- Receive assignment of stalls, encouraging all the stalls to be in one area.
- Locate the number and location of stalls and phone in the location to the ranch.
- Determine the location of additional hay and get it to the Joder stall area.
- Be on the lookout for the arriving trailers and be prepared to guide to the appropriate area and coordinate horse information with Fairgrounds personnel.
- Document the arrival of each horse and evaluate each for stress or injury, dealing with either appropriately. This may mean walking to cool out.
- In the case of a veterinary emergency, use the vet provided by the Fairgrounds. Individual owners are free to contact their own vet to check the condition of their horse(s).

### **C. Responsibilities of Owners at the Fairgrounds**

If possible, horse owners should check on their horses at the Fairgrounds. Owners should have prepared in advance an evacuation kit (see Appendix A). Depending on the length of stay of the evacuated horses, it may be necessary to be responsible for feeding, stall cleaning, and other needed activities.

### **D. Post-evacuation Follow-up**

When the decision has been made to return horses to Joder Ranch, the Joder representative at the Fairgrounds will coordinate the return with the ranch and with Fairgrounds representatives. The paperwork from the receiving process should be available and used in the returning process.

Owners will be notified and will need to make individual arrangements for their horse's return. Joder Ranch can be contacted to help with return of horses. Standard trailering fees will apply.

If any horses have been lost during the evacuation, stables, equestrian centers, surrounding farms or other facilities that might house animals will need to be contacted to see if the horse(s) can be located. Be prepared to identify and document ownership when claiming a lost horse.

It is also a good idea to check with the ranch veterinarian or the state veterinary medical association for information about any disease outbreaks that may have occurred as a result of the fire.

## **Appendix D: If You Go to the Ranch**

Not every one will choose to go to the ranch in the event of a wildfire. Some people may be out of town or unable to get to the ranch for other reasons, or they simply may choose not to do so if they think they would not be able to handle the stressful situation. Your presence at the ranch in the event of a wildfire emergency is not required although it would be welcomed if you intend to play a role that will be helpful and productive in such an emergency situation. Also, be aware that even though the ranch plan includes negotiating with the sheriff for boarders to be allowed to pass through such a roadblock, there is no guarantee that that would actually happen.

### **If you do not go to the ranch:**

- Try to stay calm and not panic; stay by your phone or cell phone to get the latest information from the ranch's Intrado (reverse 911) communication system described in the plan. Please do not call the ranch phone or Joder home phone for updates as those lines may need to be kept open for important communications and all personnel will be needed for crucial activities rather than answering the phone continually.
- If you have prepared your horse for an emergency trailer evacuation, your horse will be evacuated as safely as possible from the ranch in the event of such an order being issued by the sheriff. The worst case scenario will be that any horses that remain will be moved to as safe a place as possible by ranch personnel.

### **If you go to the ranch:**

- If you have an early evacuation plan, make sure that you activate your plan as early as possible so as not to interfere with potential firefighting activities. Check in with the JAR Command Center to report that you are planning to evacuate your horse.
- Please wear clothing suitable for being in a potential fire area, that is, wear long pants, leather gloves, leather shoes, and in general non-flammable clothing. The best hat to wear is probably your riding helmet.
- Please bring water and food in case your stay at the ranch turns out to be lengthy.
- Please make sure that your intention is to actually participate in a helpful activity, whether that is to help with a specific assignment or simply to help with your own horse, especially if you have a high-strung animal that may be hard to deal with.
- Please understand that in a crisis situation you may not make decisions, even about your own horse, without consulting with JAR leadership! If you come to the ranch, you will need to become a member of the emergency "team" and not a free agent.
- Upon arrival at the ranch, please report to the JAR Command Center to make your presence and plans known and/or get an assignment from the leadership so that your presence will be leveraged as much as possible.

The ranch strongly discourages boarders from going to the ranch if they will not be able to handle the stress and tension that is a part of an emergency situation such as a wildfire. You should only go to the ranch if you are prepared to play a supportive role, accepting decisions made by the JAR leadership and carrying out their directives.