

MOTION

On December 5, 2017 the Creek Fire broke out near Sylmar. Due to dry conditions and the Santa Ana winds, the fire quickly grew to over 15,000 acres and burned a number of buildings down. This area is one of the most prone to wildfire in the City, as it abuts the Angeles National Forest and is covered in brush. This area is also home to a significant number of horses or other large animals. Tragically, nearly 30 horses were killed during the Creek Fire, as they were stuck in corrals or on ranches in the fire's path while their owners were unable to retrieve them.

Wildfires are a constant threat to communities in the foothills, and pose a significant threat to not only people, but the animals they care for. Historically, the City has had a very cooperative relationship with horse owners in the area, and has taken the safety of these animals into account during emergencies. However, more should be done to ensure that owners or horses or other large animals can be evacuated during an emergency in the future.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services, with the assistance of the Fire Department and Police Department, report on strategies to increase cooperation and partnership between the City and the equestrian community on the evacuation of horses and other large animals during emergencies. This report should look at the feasibility of partnering with private haulers or enabling individuals to cross into evacuation zones when it is safe to do so to evacuate animals stuck behind fire lines.

PRESENTED BY


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY



