

BARN FIRE SAFETY

TOP 10 CHECKLIST



photo by: BARBARA SHERIDAN

Fire is an ever-present concern for stable owners. Contact your local fire department to do a walkthrough of your property and provide recommendations for a pre-plan. A qualified electrician should also evaluate your facility. There are many steps that can be taken to establish good fire prevention practices. The following list provides an excellent starting point:

— Inside —

- Smoke detectors/alarms are present and tested (batteries changed) as per manufacturer's recommendations
- A floor and site plan is located on my property and includes instructions on how to shut off the utilities (everyone has knowledge of this)
- 10 pound ABC fire extinguishers are mounted at each exit and everyone at the stable knows how to use one
- All electrical wire is encased in non-corrosive conduit, outlets are GFCI protected and extension cords are rated outdoor and for temporary use only
- All fans and heaters used are suitable for agriculture
- All light fixtures are encased in safety enclosures or LED lighting is used
- Regular cleanup and disposal of debris including cobwebs, hay and bedding
- Flammable liquids, fuels and combustion powered equipment are not stored in the stable
- Hay and bedding are stored in a separate building a practical distance from stable (note: few days supply of hay/bedding can be stored in stable)
- Aisles and doors are clear at all times

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— Outside —

- Address/emergency (911) # is posted in reflective numbers and is visible from both directions on the road (note: should be posted inside stable as well)
- Driveway/road can accommodate fire department's vehicles - there are no overhanging branches and roadway is gravel or other improved base
- There is a plan for winter consideration (daily snow/ice removal) for my driveway/road
- A pre-plan has been completed with the local fire department
- All weeds, brush and debris have been cleared from around stable
- "No Smoking" signs are posted around stable and boarders have been informed that smoking will not be tolerated anywhere on property
- Owned and tenanted vehicles are parked in a designated area away from the stable
- Clearly marked, easy-to-access, water spigots are located on all sides of my stable
- Rubbish and debris is regularly disposed of from around the farm
- Lightning rods are installed properly on farm buildings