

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 are checked at least twice a year
- ☐ Clearly marked utility shutoffs - my boarders know where they are and how to turn them off
- ☐ 5 pound (minimum) ABC fire extinguishers mounted at each exit and in all mechanical and feed rooms (if my stable is large or houses a generator, a 10 pound (minimum) ABC fire extinguisher is installed every 50 feet)
- ☐ Everyone at the stable knows how to use a fire extinguisher
- ☐ All electrical wire is encased in non-corrosive conduit, outlets are GFCI and extensions cords are only used temporarily
- ☐ All light fixtures are encased in glass globe and wire cage
- ☐ Hay and bedding are stored in a separate building at least 50 feet away from my stable
- ☐ Stalls each have an exterior door (recommended)
- ☐ Sprinkler system inside the stable - installed by a licensed contractor and is appropriate for my climate and water system (recommended)
- ☐ Cobwebs and debris are removed on a regular basis - loose hay and straw are swept and disposed of

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— Outside —

- ☐ Address is posted in reflective numbers and is visible from both directions on the road
- ☐ Driveway/road can accommodate my fire department's vehicles - there are no overhanging branches and roadway is gravel or other improved base
- ☐ My fire department knows the location of all water sources on my property - ponds, wells, storage tanks, hydrants - which are all easily accessible
- ☐ If there is a pond on my property I have contacted the local fire department to see if a dry hydrant can be installed for firefighting water supply purposes
- ☐ If there is a lock on my gate I have a lock box and my emergency responders have access (or if a combination lock, they have the combination)
- ☐ There is a pre-plan in a lock box and the fire department has a copy (fire safety plan)
- ☐ All weeds, brush and debris have been cleared around my stable
- ☐ Clearly marked, easy-to-access, water spigots are located on all sides of my stable
- ☐ Backup generator is stored safely away from stable and is available to provide emergency lighting
- ☐ "No Smoking" signs are posted around my stable and boarders have been informed that smoking will not be tolerated anywhere on my property