

## Electrical

- Make sure all wiring is of adequate size.
- Make sure wiring is tight, well supported, stapled and out of reach of the horses.
- Extension cords should be heavy duty, grounded and not subject to trampling. Extension cords are for temporary use. Additional circuits should be provided when required.
- All outlets should have their protective covers in place.
- Main panels should be kept clear of storage.
- Fixtures should be tight and well supported.
- Excessive dust and cobwebs should not be allowed to accumulate on light bulbs, wiring, etc.
- Electrical space heaters must be kept clear of combustibles and should be equipped with automatic tip switches.

## Flammable Liquids

- Should be segregated to their own separate, well ventilated storage area.
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately and disposed of outside.
- Never allow fertilizers near flammable or combustible liquid storage.

## Smoking

- Should not be allowed inside or near your barn.
- Post "No Smoking" signs.

## Hay Storage

- Should be kept tidy.
- Storage should stay a minimum of 18" away from light bulbs and other heat producing fixtures.

## Workshops

- Should be fully separated by gyproc walls from barn areas.
- Wherever possible cutting, welding, and grinding should be done outside.

## Open Flames

- Water heaters, furnaces, etc should be located away from dust producing areas.

- When hot shoeing, the farrier's furnace should be outside or the area cleaned of combustibles and the furnace placed on a non-combustible surface.
- Outdoor burning should always be at least 100 feet away from barn

## Spontaneous Heating

- Normally associated with the storage of damp hay, but also may occur in sawdust, grain, used burlap bags, fertilizers, charcoal or rags contaminated with organic oils (linseed, teak, walnut, cod liver, etc)
- Make sure hay is well cured before baling and storage. Hay salt can be used in some cases although it presents no guarantee to control heating.
- Other products subject to spontaneous heating should be stored in cool, dry locations.

## General Housekeeping

- Dust and cobwebs allow rapid spread of fire and can quickly turn a small fire into a large one.
- Trash should be put in non-combustible containers and disposed of regularly.
- Tack rooms should always be neat and tidy.
- Always keep doorways and alley ways clear of debris.
- Keep latches in good working order.
- Install smoke detectors in strategic area's.

## Emergency Planning

Every barn, the same as every home, needs a Fire Plan. Each structure is different, but some of the things to think about are:

- Post the Fire Department, veterinarian phone number and barn address in a conspicuous place .
- There must be access for fire fighting, can the trucks get within 200 feet? Be aware of overhanging trees, fences, gates, ditches etc.
- How to get the horses out, where to put them and keep them out.

- Fire extinguishers on hand and know how to use them.
- Water source

## Practice!! Have a Fire Drill

- A drill is performed at least once a year and, if personnel change a lot, twice a year.
- During the drill you will have an opportunity to spot trouble areas (crowded doorways), unruly animals, etc. Also it will give you a chance to time how long it takes to empty the barn with 1, 2 or 3 people.
- Change the drill occasionally so that in case one particular door is blocked, there is an alternate route.
- A weekly fire patrol is also a good idea to see that all routes and holding areas are maintained.
- Don't forget your neighbours, especially those without horses. In case of fire, they may mean the difference between the horses living or not if no one else is around. Get them involved and give them a chance to handle the horses and know what to do.

**The escape plan only works if the people involved know what the plan is and how to use it.**

## Horse Training

Train your horse to lead from the right and left side with only a rope around its neck. The Training should make the horses:

- Used to strangers and the Fire Department, if involved (lights, turnout gear, sirens, noise).
- Used to smoke (this is an option the Fire Dept. may use).
- Used to being put out with other horses.
- Used to hoods, blankets, water etc.

Use of smoke machines by the Fire Department does two things, it helps settle the horses down if the real thing happens, and helps handler's spot potential problem horses. The more experienced handlers could then work with these horses.

**Call your local Fire Department for an inspection and fire drill.**

# EQUIPMENT

There is a variety of equipment that can be on hand:

- Hoods and/or blankets,
- Ropes\*,
- Halters,
- Towels,
- Gloves,
- Special releases for red hot metal latches,
- Flashlight,
- Shovel,
- Crowbar,
- Axe - to break open locked or stuck doors,
- Fire extinguisher.

\*A rope may be the best tool in case of fire - It may be impossible to put a halter on a scared horse, but you can put a rope around its neck if there is one handy. There should be a rope kept at each stall door for Emergency Use only.



**A well thought out fire safety plan is the best defense against loss and injury.**

Have a plan, put it in writing and review it regularly!

Give all those who may play a part, a chance to do what may be necessary in case of fire. Have the necessary horse equipment on hand and in place at all times.

**When in doubt about your personal safety, STAY OUT. Call the fire department before you do anything else.**



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# FIRE SAFETY FOR YOUR BARN



**MAKE A PLAN. BE PREPARED.**  
THE INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE WAS PROVIDED  
BY THE LANGLEY TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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