

# Barn Safety Checklist

- Keep barns well maintained and clean.
- Educate all users in fire safety.
- Have an evacuation plan.
- Be constantly vigilant and aware of fire safety.
- Identify potential problems; review your situation frequently.
- Request an inspection by your Fire Department.
- Have your address clearly marked for emergency responders.
- Electrical problems are the number one cause of barn fires. Wiring should be top priority when building and repairing barns.
- Extension cords and strip plugs should be unplugged immediately after use.
- All appliances (coffee machines, etc.) should be unplugged when not in use.
- Do not store appliances, machines or gas powered tools in the barn.
- Inspect shavings on delivery and check periodically.
- No flammable materials in the barn (e.g., gasoline, turpentine, paint thinners, etc.)
- Create a defensible space around the barn. Keep the area around the barn clear. (no bushes, woodpiles, etc.). Fire vehicles will park between 75 to 100 feet away.
- Ensure that there is vehicle access to the barn and at least 25 feet or 8 meters space for a firetruck.
- Clear the area to and around your water source.
- Post No Smoking signs – prohibit cigarettes, matches, lighters, etc.
- Keep fire extinguishers near exit doors and cooking facilities.
- Have fire extinguishers checked regularly. Know how to use one.
- Have a first response plan.
- Keep water hoses at the ready. Call the fire department before taking action.
- Install heat or smoke detectors. Program them to trigger an external alarm. Some models can also be connected to a monitoring agency. Do not attempt to put out a fire yourself.
- Consider installing a sprinkler system.
- Check hay bales for heating on a regular basis.
- Hang halters and name plates on the appropriate stall door.
- Keep extra halters and lead ropes near the exits.
- Keep aisleways clear of clutter.
- Post a notice near the door with the number and location of all animals in the barn. Post an emergency Vet number.
- Do not lock a horse in a stall. Keep door fastenings easy to open. For escape artists, explore the various types of door latches that are horse proof, but still easy for people to open.
- In case of fire, lead each horse out of the barn to safety. Do not herd them out. They will probably return to their stall and will create more of a hazard by running in panic.
- Information compliments of Langley Township Fire Department.