



Barn Safety Information

This document includes:

- A. Barn Safety Overview - Most importantly to make a plan for escape for you and your horse.
- B. A Barn Safety Checklist - Great things to remember to have in or near your barn.
- C. Fire Safety Supplies (Fire Safety Kit, Emergency Kit).
- D. A Fire Action Plan - Complete this, laminate it and post it at the entrance of your barn for firefighters.
- E. Basic Emergency Information - To know when making an emergency call.
- F. Emergency Checklist - things you need to know ahead of time to help firefighters save valuable time during an emergency.

A. BARN SAFETY OVERVIEW

1. Have a plan. Make it known.
2. Maintain Fire Safety Kit. (See C below)
3. Maintain Emergency Kit. (See C below)
4. Eliminate fire hazards around barn.
5. Wear safe attire.
6. Keep calm and stay safe.
7. Know your local firefighter.

B. Barn Safety Checklist

Studies show that if you don't immediately take preventative action within 24 hours, chances are you won't do anything to prepare for a barn fire emergency. When you go to your barn, ask yourself the following questions and JUST DO IT!

- Is your address clearly marked at the main roadway AND other side-driveways? Is it visible at night?



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- Is your driveway cleared 12-14ft wide and 13' 6in overhead to allow multiple large fire vehicles to enter your property?
- Do you have a fire action plan? Is it clearly posted?
- Do your helpers, boarders, students or neighbors know about it?
- Do you have a primary and an alternate escape route?
- Do you have fire extinguishers? Are they up-to-date on their inspection? Are they accessible? Does everyone in your barn know how they work?
- Do you have a fire safety kit? Is it easily accessible?
- Do you have NO SMOKING signs posted in and around your barn?
- Identify areas away from your barn to allow smoking.
- Is your hay stored in the barn? Do you have another option? If not, be sure hay is dry before storing.
- Is feed, bedding or hay storage blocking access to exits?
- Is everything stored/stacked more than 24in below the ceiling? (To allow water spray over the stored material.)
- Are gasoline chemicals or other flammables stored away from the barn?
- Do you use box fans? Are they clean? Be sure to turn off when not in use!-the motors can overheat.
- Does each stall door have a halter and lead rope on it?
- Do you use heaters? Are they at least 4' from any combustibles? Are they stabilized and won't tip over?
- Are your extension cords worn, outdated or overloaded?
- Do you have an alarm installed?
- Schedule a courtesy fire-safety survey of your property.

Questions? Contact Goochland County Fire Marshal 556-5365

C. Fire Safety Supplies

FIRE SAFETY KIT: Keep these items together in an accessible place. Do not allow the tools to be used for other purposes. Mark them with red paint, if necessary. Make sure everyone at your barn knows where to find the kit.

- o Ladder: long enough to reach the barn roof.
- o 100ft of connected garden hose, with spray nozzle.
- o Shovel for clearing vegetation.
- o Rake for clearing vegetation.
- o Fire extinguishers suitable for use in grass fires.



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- o Water buckets.
- o Leather gloves, hot pads (to touch metal latches) bandanas, goggles (for eye-protection).

EMERGENCY KIT: Keep these items together in an accessible place. Use only in the event of an emergency.

- o Water bucket.
- o Extra halter, lead rope and crop.
- o Sheet or blanket (cotton only).
- o Wraps.
- o Equine first aid supplies.
- o Veterinarian's phone number.
- o Any other items necessary to the care and handling of your horses for about 24 hours.

D. Fire Action Plan

Print the Action Plan on bright paper, complete the information, have it laminated and post copies at each barn entrance.

E. Basic Emergency Information

Need to Make a 911 Emergency Call? Would you know what to say?

The information that you give to a 911 Dispatcher can make the difference in the outcome of your emergency. The following information is provided as a guideline or a reference for you in advance, so you can pre-plan. Hopefully you will never need to call 911, but knowing what to say will make the experience easier.

Basic Information for all emergencies:

1. What is the location and directions of the emergency?
2. What is the telephone number from which the call is made?
3. What is the nature of the emergency?(Fire, tractor roll-over, entrapments, falls)
4. What is your name?



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ALWAYS send someone to the main road to direct emergency personnel to the incident.

Barn Fires:

Since farmland, barns and other structures can be so spread out; pinpointing an exact location on a farm is very crucial. Make a map of the fields, buildings, and access roads on your farm. Have this handy so you can answer the questions quickly.

If there are multiple barns, which one is on fire? Describe it using size, colors, or other distinguishing features that can be easily recognized.

Is it going to be easily seen when entering your property? If not, give specific directions to it using access road proper names and better known names.

What is it near? How close to another building or vehicle is it?

Are there animals inside? How many? What kind?

What else is kept inside? If pesticides, what type and quantities? Hay? Vehicular equipment?

Are there any special conditions that may interfere with fire/rescue efforts such as muddy fields, narrow lanes, etc.?

Accident/Medical Emergencies:

How many victims?

What is the condition of the victims? (Conscious, breathing, bleeding, etc.)

What type of first aid is given? (CPR, etc.)

ALWAYS let someone know where and how long you will be there. If you do not report back in a certain time, you can be checked on.

Make sure family and employee know how to disengage or shut down equipment and the location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits. Having a safety plan is one of the smartest things you can do.

If there is a farm accident, each person involved in the operation of a farm needs to know the following:

Where and how to turn off ignition on gas powered equipment.



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How to operate the fuel shut off on diesel equipment.

How to adjust the tractor seat.

How to drive forward and reverse.

Where and how to turn off lights (to prevent fire).

Location of fire extinguisher.

How to disengage the power take off (PTO).

Location of power lines in relation of movement of equipment.

How to turn off augers and elevators.

How to disconnect electrical power.

How to operate equipment.

How to turn on the fan to get air movement in manure pits.

Location of first aid kits.

Location of other personal protective gear and how to use them. (Respirators/masks, elders mask, safety glasses, etc.)

F. Emergency Checklist

Quantities and location of pesticides

First aid kits

Fire extinguishers

Protective clothing

Shovels

Disposal containers

Absorbent materials



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Grain Bin Controls Checklist

- How to turn on the aeration fan.
- How to turn off the drier.
- How to turn off the automatic grain cycling equipment.

Barn Safety Guide | Handle With Care



"One day fifteen years ago, we got a call that our barn was on fire," starts Dr. Tom Newton, a veterinarian and horse owner. "By the time we got out there, barn staff had knocked back the blaze with three fire extinguishers and a garden hose, but the damage was done. In this instance we were using a heat lamp to warm a sick foal, and the foal knocked it into a bed of hay. Thanks to fast action our barn was saved. Unfortunately, we lost that foal and a mare in the stall beside it. It was a hard loss, but we gained an appreciation for barn fire safety that we want to share with others."

Sad stories like this aren't the sort we make a habit of telling, but consider that hay has a flammability rating nearing that of gasoline. It only takes 3 minutes for a hay fire to consume a standard horse stall, and only 30 seconds of exposure to fire can take a horse's life. If the impact of these facts and stories can help jar readers into thinking twice about the threat of fire to their barns, then it's all for the good.

A collaborative conversation and working relationship between barn owners and their district firefighters agreed there should be a focus on four major categories: preventive measures, thorough preparedness, in the event of an incident and the aftermath. To help guard your barn from fire and to inform you in case of an accident, here are tips offered by the Goochland County experts:

Prevention

- Off-Site Storage - When at all possible keep gasoline and flammable chemicals in a building separate from your barn.



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- Quality Electronics - Make sure the electronics you use are UL approved and only use as intended. For example, standard box fans are barn standards, but one mounted at an angle or horizontally can build up heat due to friction and spark fires. Also, always unplug any appliances not in use.
- Dry Hay - Never store uncured or otherwise wet hay. Chemical reactions within the hay can build heat to the point of spontaneous combustion. Make certain your loft is protected from rain and well ventilated between walls and stacks.
- Cobwebs - We're not just being neat freaks, cobwebs are fire hazards. Webs are very flammable and they trap fine dust that can be dangerous when webs are near a heat source.
- Safe Wiring - Take the same care when wiring a barn that you would when wiring your home. Don't overload circuits and make sure no wires are exposed. Also, keep wires away from animals that might chew through them.
- No Smoking - This should be obvious, but lit cigarettes and tossed butts are an open invitation for fire.
- Nightly Check - Even though your last feeding may be mid-afternoon, it's wise to do a nightly walk-through to make sure nothing was left plugged in or precariously perched.

Preparedness

- Fire Extinguishers - A good rule is to have a fire extinguisher by every entrance and a couple in central locations. Dry ABC extinguishers are good, but the self-pump water can variety, with a little dish soap mixed in for better coverage, works well too.
- On-Site Phone - Even if it's a cell phone, this is necessary in emergencies.
- Relationship with Fire Department - Have someone from the department come out to look for hazards. Show them alternative water sources like ponds and pools. Have them record your location and access roads on their master map.
- Clear Access - Barns should be accessible by two driveways. These should be 12-feet wide with 13-foot clearance to permit fire trucks access - wider around tight turns.
- Horse Leads - Have leads easily accessible by major entrances and by stalls so fire personnel can find them quickly.



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- Have A Fire Plan - Take the time to make a fire evacuation plan. Perform live rehearsals with family and farm helpers.

The Incident

- Call 9-1-1 - Make the call FIRST. Have someone stay on the phone until all questions are answered and location identified.
- Prioritize - Make sure you and loved ones are safe. Once safe, going into a burning structure is strongly discouraged.
- First Few Minutes - Fight small fires by spraying at base. Lead livestock out in orderly fashion. Once clear fight fire from outside structure.
- Stay Low - Smoke can asphyxiate before fire burns. Stay below smoke. Cover faces with damp clothes.
- Prepare For Fire Dept. - Clear the area of large obstacles that could block trucks and post a person at farm entrance to guide them in.
- Mind Your Horses - Corral your horses in an area away from the commotion to keep their stress low.

After the Incident

- First Aid For Humans - Cover burns in loose, damp dressing. If asphyxiated, administer rescue breathing.
- First Aid For Horses - Encourage them to stay calm with feed or hay. Cover burns in loose damp dressing. Administer pain medications as needed.
- Stay Alert - Remain clear of barn until fire personnel deem safe. Chemical explosions and flair-ups can occur well after fires seem out.