

## FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

**Q** What electrical appliances and equipment are safe to use within our facilities?

**A** All electrical materials and equipment should have an approval label of a recognized certification agency. These include: CSA, cUL, ULC, ETL, cMET, Entela, O-TL, Warnock Hersey, TUV Rheinland.

**Q** In hot weather, what type of fan can I use safely in my facility?

**A** All circulation fans must have a certification agency label and be approved for use in hazardous areas where dusts, shavings, straw and hay are present.

**Q** Is it permitted to use extension cords in our facility?

**A** Extension cords should only be used temporarily for veterinary equipment or heating blankets used for medical reasons and removed after use.

**Q** How much straw, hay and shavings can be stored safely in racetrack barns?

**A** Only have the daily amount necessary for the horses kept in the barn shed row. Unless the stable and storage areas are fire separated from each other, additional quantities of hay, straw and shavings should be stored in a separate building or

non-combustible vented containers, kept a safe distance away from the barns.

Barns at training facilities and breed farms should follow these best practices as closely as possible.

**Q** Where is it safe to smoke?

**A** Careless smoking can pose a potential fire hazard in any location. Smoking is not permitted in any building or within 10 feet (3 m) of any structure.

## OTHER RESOURCES

**Q** Where can I get more information and assistance about fire safety issues?

**A** More often than not, your local fire department would welcome an opportunity to visit your facility to become familiar with it, discuss access for firefighting and water supply issues and to assist in the preparation of site-specific emergency procedures and fire prevention practices.



# BARN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

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It makes good horse sense to plan for a fire emergency and take steps to protect your barns, stables and racetrack from fire.

The following questions and answers have been compiled to help reduce fire risks in stables and horse racing facilities.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**Q** How long do I have to rescue my horse from the barn if there is a fire?

**A** A smoldering fire can erupt into an inferno in minutes. Fire and smoke can spread so quickly you may not be able to rescue your horse. Personal safety has to be your priority. Early detection of fire is fundamental to you and your horses' safety. With just a few breaths, toxic smoke could easily incapacitate you and your horse. Avoid exposure to smoke by staying low to the ground where the air is cleaner. Never let fire get between you and your way out. It should never be considered safe to enter a burning building.

**Q** How will horses react in a fire?

**A** Horses may want to remain in their stall because they think the stall is a safe and familiar place. Keeping your horse haltered, practicing fire drills and knowing the

location of the fire exits can better prepare you and your horses, should fire strike.

**Q** Must horses wear halters overnight while in their stalls?

**A** This is recommended to ensure ease of evacuation in a fire emergency.

**Q** What should the emergency procedures involve in our facility?

**A** Emergency procedures should include procedures to be used upon discovery of fire, raising an alarm of fire, notifying the fire department, procedures to be followed when an alarm of fire has been raised, and steps that could be taken to confine, control and extinguish the fire. The procedures should be prominently posted at each exit to the building and all barn staff should understand the procedures and participate in a fire drill at least twice each season.

**Q** As a minimum, what type of fire extinguishers and early fire detection equipment should I have in my stables?

**A** A multi-purpose 2A-10BC rated portable fire extinguisher approved for use in all climates should be mounted outside each exit door from buildings in smaller facilities. In larger facilities it may be necessary to place additional fire extinguishers in readily visible and accessible locations for prompt response.

In small facilities install one or more photo electric or ionization smoke detectors interconnected to an occupied building to monitor the building 24 hours a day. In larger facilities, a single stage fire alarm system suitably zoned, equipped with manual pull stations, smoke detection, strobe lights in place of bells and monitored 24 hours a day would be more appropriate.