



Winterize Your Barn



- Manure piles that are not properly turned for composting can also catch on fire, composting should be done away from the barn.
- Keep barns clean and free of dust, cobwebs, trash, oily tack or hoof cleaning rags, soiled paper towels and other easily ignited **fire hazards**.
- Hay, bedding, gasoline, oil products, scrap wood, tractors and vehicles should be stored in a separate building location.
- **Halter and lead rope by each stall for fire safety!!!**
- Install a grounded lightning rod system to protect the barn during electrical storms.
- Periodically have a certified electrician check and update the electrical system.
- Make sure large fire trucks can get to the barn down the driveway.
- Smoke Alarms, Flame Detectors, Heat “rate of rise” Detectors, Sprinkler Systems and Carbon Monoxide alarms must be considered as a system.
- Provide 2 exits - build stall doors that lead to the outside as well as the inside of the barn, small paddocks built outside each stall are even better.
- Electrical wires should be in conduit and to the fire codes used for commercial buildings.
- **Turn off** all appliances when no-one is in the building (coffee makers, water heaters, vacuums, heaters, fans, radios etc.) or make sure they are safely wired to turn off or pop a fuse if overheated.
- Fire extinguishers should be at both ends of the barn and in the middle, they should be inspected regularly for charging and people should learn to use them properly.
- There should be a phone in or near the barn to call the fire department.
- The more exits available to the barn and the stalls, the better the chances of getting the people and the animals out.
- “**No Smoking**” signs and a designated smoking area outside should be set up with sand buckets for cigarette butts.
- Obstacles should be removed from the barn aisles for quick exit in case of an emergency, for both animals and people.
- **Keep electrical cords, including Christmas lights, out of your horses’ teeth!**
- Provide clean water and use tank heaters to keep ice from forming in the water tank. **Snow is NOT a suitable substitute** for clean, fresh water. A horse would have to consume up to ten times the volume of snow to meet its water requirements. Impaction colics can occur when horses have restricted access to water.
- Provide plenty of hay as this is the “**fuel**” to your horses’ furnace. Offer access to shelter or a wind break.
- **Ice free hooves** – If ice balls up in your horse’s hooves, apply petroleum jelly or spray some nonstick cooking spray to the bottom.
- Have you **ever** tried to use frozen ointment to dress a wound? Keep your **first aid kit** inside where it’s warm and readily available in an emergency.
- **Ventilation** – while it may be cold outside and you want to protect your horse from the elements, ventilation is a must! Ammonia and dust wreak havoc on your horse’s respiratory health. Ensure there is plenty of ventilation under, over and around hay storage, and that it is properly dried and cured.



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