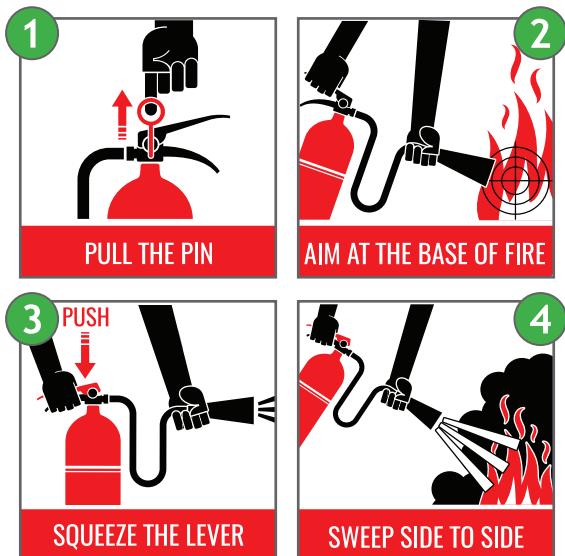
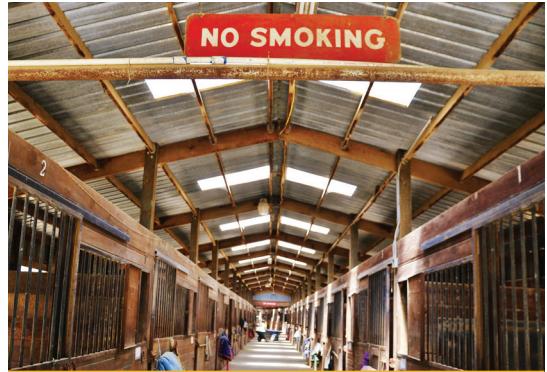




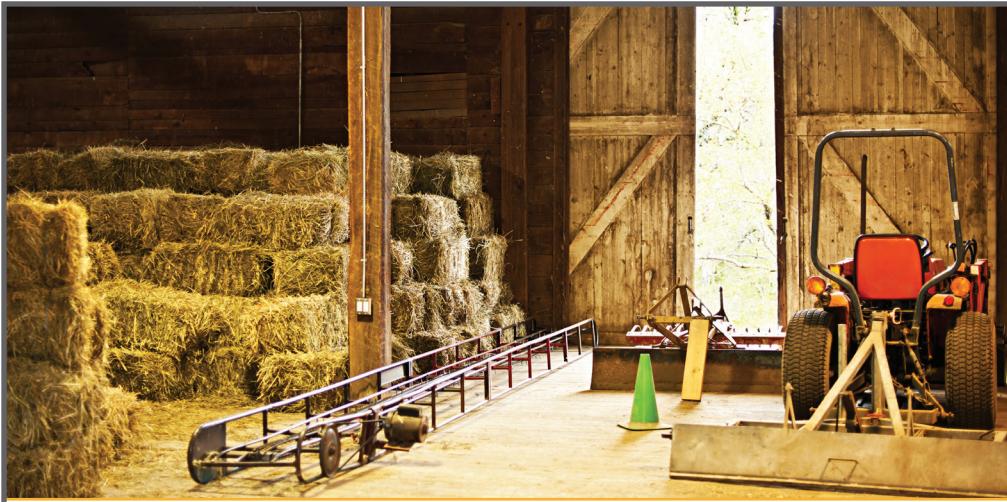
## How can you make your barn safer?

### Best Practices:

- ✓ Have the fire department conduct a fire-prevention inspection.
- ✓ Post and enforce “No Smoking” signs.
- ✓ Post the building’s address near a phone.
- ✓ Keep area outside structures free of trees, brush, lumber, etc.
- ✓ Have a licensed electrician inspect all heating and electrical systems. Faulty heating equipment/electrical systems cause almost 40% of barn fires.
- ✓ Confirm all fans have sealed motors.
- ✓ Ensure that all electrical appliances/equipment are UL compliant and plugged directly into metal outlets with self-closing covers. Improper use of heated buckets and portable water heaters can cause fires.
- ✓ Mount fully-charged ABC fire extinguishers in several areas. Have an inspection service check them annually and do a monthly visual inspections of all safety devices. Train all employees and boarders on how to use fire extinguishers.
- ✓ Keep aisles and exits clear of loose/spilled hay, cobwebs/dust, shavings, straw, baling twine, and other flammables.
- ✓ Practice evacuation in both light and dark conditions as many fires start at night.
- ✓ Hang a leather halter/lead rope at each stall and plan where to put horses in the event of a fire.



*While these practices may be time consuming, they are well worth the effort to provide a safe barn for your horses.*



## Dangerous Practices:

- ✗ Using bare lightbulbs or space heaters in the barn. Cobwebs and dust provide a route for a small fire to quickly spread and can catch fire if near exposed lightbulbs or heating elements.
- ✗ Leaving appliances plugged in while not in use or using any equipment with damaged/frayed cords, such as clippers, dryers, or vacuums.
- ✗ Using substandard wiring and fans. Wiring should be in metal conduit. Romex can be chewed by horses and is not safe in barns.
- ✗ Storing large amounts of bulk supplies, hay, shavings, and straw in the barn. These items can easily catch fire and spontaneously combust if they are not dried correctly.
- ✗ Parking gas-powered vehicles, tractors, equipment, machinery, or mowers in or near the barn. Trailers and storage containers should not be within 75-100 feet of the barn.
- ✗ Storing fuels or equipment containing gas inside the barn.
- ✗ Having a shop in a barn that is used to store combustible materials, hay, or house livestock.
- ✗ Substituting extension cords for permanent wiring for fans or other devices. Only use them for a short term and then unplug them. Have a qualified electrician install additional runs of conduit and outlets where needed.

*Disclaimer: This document is provided as an example for informational purposes. We make no claim of being experts in any field other than insurance. We advise that you check with local, state, or federal authorities regarding codes or ordinances in your area.*

