

# Barn Fire Safety



Mrs. O’Leary’s Cow may have gotten a bad rap but the folktale reminds us fire safety is an important part of farm life. People, animals, and property are in danger when fire breaks out on the farm. Inspect your barn and outbuildings for fire hazards to reduce the risk of tragic loss.

## [Great Chicago Fire](#)

Things to think about.....

- Green address sign visible from the road?
- Fire trucks can reach the barn? (Check road surface, laneway, gate and curbs)
- Aisle ways and doorways clear of debris or “stored” objects?
- Cobwebs removed weekly, if not more often?
- All electric motors on both fixed and portable appliances completely sealed and free of dust?
- Extension cords are in use? (temporarily only), Are they industrial or heavy duty rated?
- Any electrical cords hanging from or supported by nails?
- Are the electrical outlets, Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters?
- All permanent electrical wiring in conduit?
- Cages and covers installed over all lighting fixtures?
- Are there explosion proof light switches installed?
- The electrical panel box clean and clear of any combustibles and debris?
- Is there a master electric power switch on the outside of the barn?
- Water on site for the purposes of firefighting?
- Water hose long enough to reach the opposite end of the barn?
- Hay stored in a shed or in another building at least 100’ from the barn?
- Stall bedding stored in an area away from the animals?
- Used stall bedding (manure pile) kept in an area away from the barn?
- A sign with emergency contact information posted?
- An emergency animal escape plan displayed?
- Are all oily rags and other flammable or combustibles disposed of properly?
- Have you invited your fire department to visit your property for purposes of making a pre-plan?

*Remember, Fire Safety is everyone’s responsibility!*

