

## Protect Your Investment

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Millions of dollars in buildings, equipment, and livestock are lost each year in farm related fires. These tragedies represent not only a loss of livelihood, but also various negative impacts on the local communities that service them. Moreover, there's no figure that can adequately value the loss of human life, especially if that loss is the farm operator and/or majority family breadwinner.

June is Dairy month, and we should be doing all we can to protect the dairy – or any agricultural business, for that matter. What follows is a list of things you and your crew can do to minimize the risk of a barn fire.

- ✓ A clean barn is a safe barn – enough said.
- ✓ Inspect the barn, shop, storage, etc. annually and have a licensed tradesman repair or replace any damaged or worn mechanicals.
- ✓ Outlets should be regularly examined and kept free of dust and cobwebs.
- ✓ Extension cords are for temporary use only and should be kept in good condition with fully grounded plugs
- ✓ Check fans and electrical panels for dust and cobwebs
- ✓ Provide a safe designated area for smokers with an easy, reliable way to extinguish butts – i.e. - strategically placed buckets of sand.
- ✓ Check fire extinguishers monthly, or at least semi-annually. This could be paired with changing the batteries in smoke detectors – when the time changes in spring and fall.
- ✓ Map out locations of extinguishers so you know where they are in an emergency.

- ✓ NEVER refuel hot engines inside a building.
- ✓ Keep oily rags in a metal, fire-safe container away from any heat sources.
- ✓ Light fixtures should have explosion-proof covers.
- ✓ Clean out cobwebs and hay chaff which can act like a high speed pathway for fires to spread.
- ✓ If you have a dry hydrant on the farm make sure your local fire department knows its location. Make sure it is always accessible – free of brush, equipment, snow, etc.

Remember, there is more at stake than just the barn. For more information check out [www.nfpa.org/farms](http://www.nfpa.org/farms) .



**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.**

- ✓ Heat lamps and space heaters are kept a safe distance from anything that can burn.
- ✓ Heaters are on a sturdy surface and cannot fall over.
- ✓ Electrical equipment is labeled for agricultural or commercial use.
- ✓ All wiring is free from damage.
- ✓ Extension cords are not used in the barn.
- ✓ Lightbulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture, and breakage.
- ✓ Damage is identified quickly and repairs are completed with safety in mind.
- ✓ Dust and cobwebs around electrical outlets and lights are removed.
- ✓ Oily rags are stored in a closed, metal container away from heat.
- ✓ Feed, hay, straw, and flammable liquids are stored away from the main barn.
- ✓ The barn is a smoke-free zone.
- ✓ Exits are clearly marked and pathways are clear.
- ✓ Fire drills are held frequently with everyone who uses the barn.
- ✓ Workers are trained to use fire extinguishers.
- ✓ Everyone in the barn knows personal safety is the first priority if a fire breaks out.
- ✓ Hazard checks take place on a set schedule.

### Required Equipment

The following safety equipment may be required by local building codes and will help protect your barn. Install and maintain:

- ABC-type fire extinguishers near every exit and within 50 feet from any point in the barn.
- Fire alarm system
- Sprinkler system
- Carbon monoxide detection system



Talk with your local fire department to address safety concerns unique to your farm.

Go to [www.nfpa.org/farms](http://www.nfpa.org/farms) to learn more about fire safety on the farm.

Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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