



Barn Fire Preparedness



Defensible Space is crucial for your barn's wildfire safety. It's the buffer zone you create between your property and the surrounding wildland area. While Fire Safety is the daily habit of checking and inspecting inside your barn.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Creating defensible space can slow fire spread, protecting your barn from embers, flames, or heat. It provides firefighters a safer area to defend your property. Here are a few tips to get started:

- **Clear dead grass, leaves, and pine needles within 5 feet or more of structure**
- **Swap bark mulch for gravel, pavers, or bare dirt right against the barn**
- **Move wood, hay, straw, manure, and shavings at least 30 feet away from structure**
- **Trim tree branches back 10 feet from the roof and walls**
- **Clear gutters and roofs of debris**
- **Clear empty feed bags, cardboard, tarps, and twine away from walls**
- **Park trailers and trucks with a clear path out**

FIRE SAFETY

Inspecting your barn and outbuildings for fire hazards can help reduce the risk of tragic loss. It's an important part of keeping you and your animals safe. Here are a few tips to get started:

Electrical & Heat Sources

- Check wiring for fraying, damage, or exposed wire
- Use permanent, properly rated outlets instead of extension cords
- Clear dust and cobwebs from outlets and light fixtures

Storage & Housekeeping

- Store oily rags in a closed metal container, away from heat sources
- Keep feed, hay, straw, and flammable liquids stored away from barn
- Keep exits and walkways clearly marked and free of clutter
- Ensure barn is a smoking-free zone

Equipment & Training

- Train everyone who uses the barn on how to use a fire extinguisher
- Make sure everyone knows: if a fire starts, personal safety comes first
- Hold fire drills regularly

During a disaster, call the Sonoma CART hotline at 707-861-0699 or Sonoma County Animal Services at 707-565-7100.

Learn more at SonomaCart.org or theAnimalShelter.org.

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