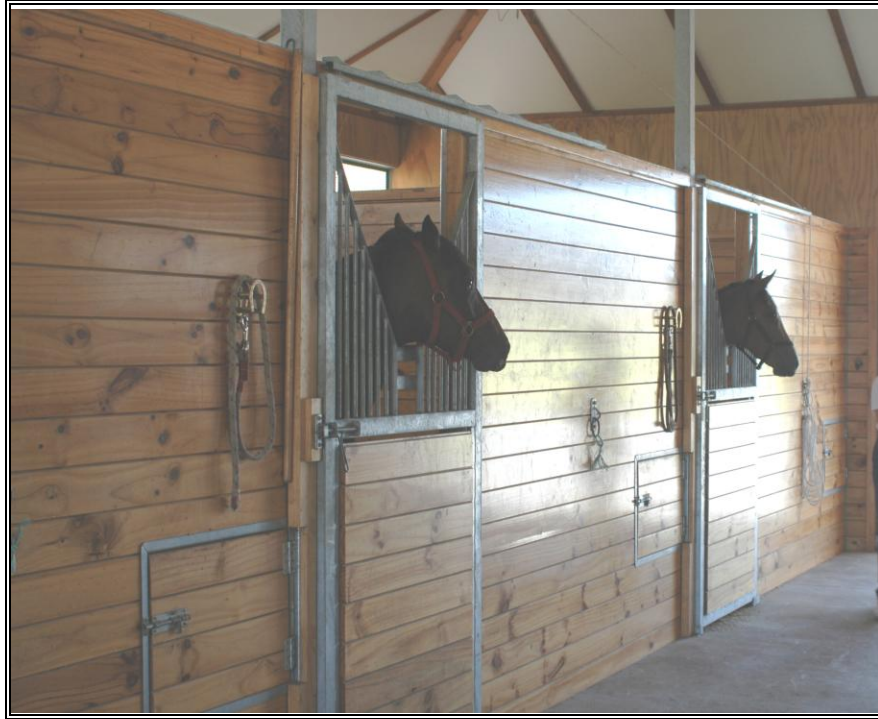


## DISASTER PREPARATION ASSESSMENT: A Checklist for Horse Farms



A self safety disaster checklist is an important step to maintain the professional integrity of the equine business. A thorough check of your farm will provide peace of mind and help to ensure the safest environment for horses and humans under all natural and manmade disasters. Such as: Structure Fires, Brush/Forest Fires, Hurricanes, Ice Storms, Blizzards, Severe Cold, and Tornado.

Please take time to answer the following questions in order to determine what safety protocols you are currently practicing and those you may need to implement and/or enhance in order to reduce the risk of equine/human injury during disasters.

**Visit Our Website For More Information:**

[www.horse-safety.com](http://www.horse-safety.com)

**Equine Risk Management Group**  
ERMG Document No. 2011 - 004

**Disclaimer:** The content and information conveyed in this document provides the reader with basic information associated with the safe care, driving, handling, and riding of horses. The application and utilization of the information and practices conveyed herein are considered to be best practices and/or those steps associated to accomplish safe equestrian practices. The reader is reminded the inherent risks associated with horses can be overpowering to the equestrian regardless of what safe practices are being applied to the animals. The purpose for implementation of safe equestrian practices is to reduce and/or eliminate the death, injury and dismemberment directly or indirectly from participating in an equestrian activity. ERMG makes no claims that following the procedures, recommendations and suggestions contained herein will prevent death, injury and dismemberment from and in association with participation in equestrian activities.

# CHECK LIST

Complete the questions with personal knowledge and first hand inspection. If the answer is known, leave the question blank, and come back to it later, but find out the answer. If the question does not apply to your situation, then simply mark NA, not applicable.

<b>Electrical Systems</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the service boxes in a dry, dust free location and mounted on fire resistant materials?			
Are the electrical fixtures free of dust, dirt, cob webs, chaff, hay or combustible materials?			
Are all electrical wires in electric conduit?			
Are all electric lights in explosion proof protectors?			
Are all electric lights protected from damage by horses?			
Are all electric systems properly grounded to prevent electrical shock?			
Are all electrical systems free from sources of water and weather?			
Are all electrical system up to code for you region?			
Are all electrical systems using proper ampere circuit breakers?			
Are all electrical lights explosion proof?			
Are all electric extension cords of proper gauge to handle loads?			
Are all electric extension cords protected with a ground, three way receptacle?			
Are all electrical extension cords protected from biting, chewing by horses?			
Are all electrical extension cords free from contact with horse's hooves?			
Is there a ground-fault system being used around water sources?			
Are all electric lights of the proper wattage for use in the electrical receptacle?			
Are proper electrical three way adapters used?			
Are all electrical power distribution strips adequate for electrical loads?			
Is there a back-up power source in case of emergency power failure?			
Is the back-up power source installed to override the conventional system automatically?			
Are the instructions on the use of a back-up power system understood by all staff?			
Is the back-up power source located in an area to allow for proper ventilation?			
Is the fuel source for the back-up power source exposed to potential ignition?			



# CHECK LIST

Heating and Cooling Systems	YES	NO	NA
Are the heating and cooling systems installed by a licensed professional?			
Does the heating and cooling system exclusive to use in an office, lab, tack room, etc?			
Are electric heaters used only when staff is present in the barn?			
Are electric heaters properly vented, following manufacturers instructions?			
Are electric heaters used a safe distance from all sources of water?			
Are electric extension cords used to power electric heaters?			
Are electric heaters plugged into a properly wired receptacle?			
Are electric heaters cleaned before use each season?			
Is there a smoke and/or carbon monoxide detector used in the area with the heater?			
Is a petroleum "fired" heater used with an electric exhaust fan?			
If a petroleum "fired" heater is used, is there sufficient source of fresh air?			
If a petroleum "fired" heater is used, is there sufficient distance from flammables?			
If a petroleum "fired" heater is used, is this ever left unattended in a barn?			
Is the air conditioning unit mounted securely?			
Is the air conditioning unit properly wired for the electrical load?			
Is the air conditioning unit cleaned of rodent and bird nests before use?			



**This unattended fire is within a dangerous distance to this fuel storage tank.**

# CHECK LIST

<b>Equipment Fuel Storage [Gasoline or Diesel]</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the fuel storage tanks located at least 40 feet from buildings?			
Do the fuel tanks have a proper electrical ground?			
Are there fire extinguishers near tanks?			
Are the tanks protected from collision by vehicular traffic?			
Do you have clean up protocols in case of spills?			
Is there an emergency fuel shut off switch or valve?			
Is the fuel storage tank in local compliance for safety?			
Is the fuel storage tank protected from contaminating water sources?			

<b>Barns and Stables</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the areas around the barns and buildings free of weeds, grass and flammable debris?			
Is the hay cured [below 18% moisture] prior to being stored in any building?			
Is the hay and bedding stored in a separate building from the animals?			
Is the hay stored in a loft?			
Is the hay stored on the ground level in small quantities in the barn with horses?			
If straw used for bedding is it stored in a separate building?			
Is the straw stored on the ground level in small quantities in the barn with horses?			
Is fresh sawdust used for bedding?			
Is fresh sawdust stored in a well ventilated area?			
Are shavings used for bedding?			
Are shavings purchased in loose bulk?			
Are bulk shavings stored in a well ventilated area, away from animals?			
Are shavings purchased and stored in bags?			
Are the bags of shavings stored in a dry, cool location?			
After the stalls are cleaned, is the waste muck stored in well ventilated area?			
Is the muck pit protected from leeching liquids waste into the surrounding soil?			
Is the muck pit protected from leeching liquids waste into fresh water supplies?			
Are the barns and stables constructed to allow for natural ventilation?			
Are the roofs, walls and windows weather tight, with adequate ventilation for animals?			
Are there outside exits to each stall in the barn?			
Are there inside exits for each stall in the barn?			
Does each stall have sufficient lighting from a natural source?			

# CHECK LIST

<b>Barns and Stables</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are there fire extinguishers located in every building, in highly visible location?			
Are they annually charged?			
Are they 10 pounds, with ABC rating or better?			
Are they protected from freezing?			
Is there a phone in all barns with important numbers (fire, police, and key personnel)?			
Are there appropriately equipped first aid kits immediately available for use?			
Are there no smoking signs at entrances and throughout the barn?			
Is the no smoking rule enforced?			
Are horses valued over \$100,000 stabled in the same barns/stables?			
Are the aisles at least 12 feet wide?			
Are the aisles free of harmful objects?			
Are vehicles parked in the aisles that could block emergency exits?			
If vehicles are operated in barns and stables are they protected with spark arrestors?			
Are all stalls secured with a solid door, either hinged or sliding?			
Are a lead and halter local adjacent to each stall in case of an emergency?			
Are the stalls latched to secure the animal safely inside?			
Are the stalls designed to prevent contact with neighboring horses?			
Are the grain and feed rooms locked and containers securely covered?			
Are water hydrants prevented from freezing with electrical heat tapes?			
Are electrical heat tapes used on plumbing anywhere on the farm?			
Are the electrical heat tapes checked before use each season?			
Are automatic water devices used in stalls, with electric heaters?			
Are the automatic water devices carefully checked before use each season?			
Are permanently mounted electric exhaust fans used to ventilate barn/stable?			
Are the electric motors on the exhaust fan examined periodically?			
Are all emergency exits clearly marked with signs or emergency lighting?			
Is the indoor arena heated?			
Is the indoor arena heated with electric?			
Is the indoor arena heated with propane/natural gas?			
Is the emergency gas shut off valve known to all staff?			
Is there an emergency water source for use in fighting fires in arena?			
Are staff trained to use all fire fighting equipment on farm?			
Does the local fire department visit you facility to understand its layout?			
Does the farrier use a hot forge to shoe horses at the farm?			

# CHECK LIST

<b>Barns and Stables</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NA</b>
Does the farrier park his/her vehicle in or near an access/egress?			
Does the farrier practice good safety while on the farm?			
Do you periodically conduct a fire drill for staff and boarders?			

<b>Paddocks and Pastures</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are paddocks and pastures free of harmful objects?			
Are there broken wooden planks and exposed nails?			
Are all wooden fence posts secure to hold fence?			
Are all gates in good working order?			
Can all gates be securely closed and latched to prevent horses from escaping?			
Are all electric fence tapes & strings properly attached to provide proper charge to fence?			
Are all electric fence tapes & strings highly visible to the horses?			
Are all electric fence posts secure in the ground?			
Is the electric fence charger properly grounded to provide maximum charge?			
Is there a battery back up to the electric charger?			
Are all wires of a high tensile wire fence secured to prevent puncture wounds?			
Are the wires of the high tensile fence visible to the horse?			
Is the woven wire fence high enough from ground to prevent injuries from sliding under?			
Is the woven wire fence securely attached to all posts?			
Is it necessary to have an upper cap board to prevent horse from leaning over?			
Are extra gate panels available to temporary repair breaks in fences?			