

Recommendations for horse barn escape plans in fire

Local fire department officials can help in the development of an escape plan:

- Display a policy in the barn and give copies to every renter. It is advisable that all renters sign a letter saying that they have read the fire escape plan and fire safety measures in force.
- Organize a fire drill every 6 to 12 months. More frequent drills should be conducted if there is a high turnover of personnel or renters.
- Train firefighters in the handling of horses.

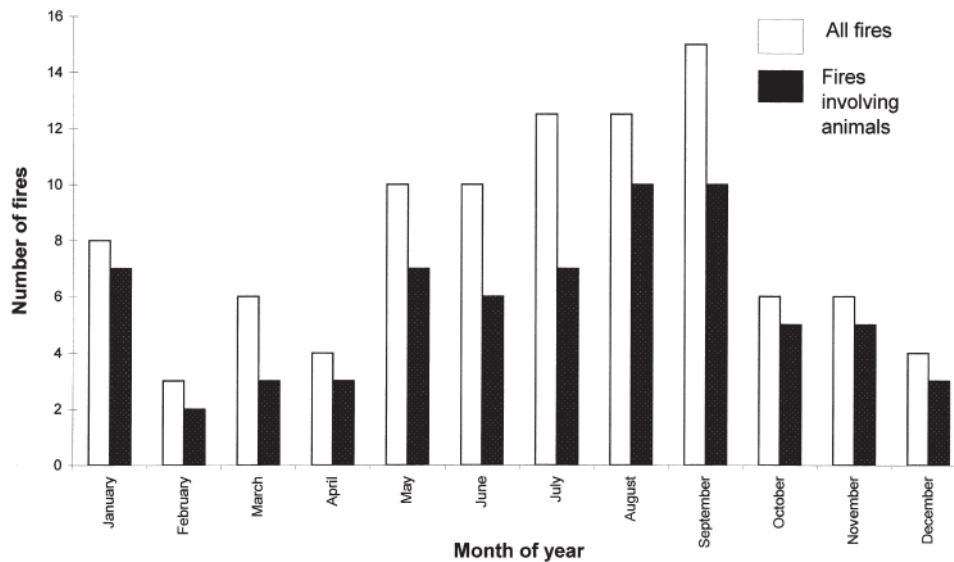


FIG. 10-5 Seasonal frequency of barn and stable fires from 1973 to 1982 in the United States. (Modified from Pagel S: *Tierverluste und Schaeden infolge von Stallbranden*, doctoral dissertation, 1986, University of Berlin.)

- Familiarize horses with firefighters dressed in working gear and dragging hoses.
- Implement a no smoking and no alcoholic beverage policy.
- Post fire escape routes on each stall. Evacuation may be facilitated if evacuation routes are color coordinated along the floor from each stall to the closest door.
- Implement a weekly fire patrol to ensure that no gates or exits are blocked, such as shipments of hay or bedding.
- Work with neighbors, who may be the first to recognize a problem.