



**More Than Just Books!**  
**Books - Videos - Prints - Home Goods**  
 THE OFFICIAL STORE OF BLOOD-HORSE PUBLICATIONS

## Barn Fire: Sprinklers Save Harness Horses

by: Tracy Gantz

May 12 2010 Article # 16333

Sprinklers in a barn at Plainridge Racecourse, a harness racetrack near Boston, saved some 35 horses when a fire broke out May 9. High winds could have sent flames to other barns when the blaze began about 3 a.m.

The racetrack, located in Plainville, about 35 miles southwest of the Boston area, had a sprinkler system installed in the barns in 1999. Plainville Fire Chief Ted Joubert credited the system with saving the horses.

"The sprinklers are the big story," Joubert told CBS affiliate [WBZ](#). "These barns are highly combustible."

Four members of the fire department responded to the incident, while horsemen rescued 35-40 horses from the barn. Veterinarians monitored animals for smoke inhalation. Twenty horses were scratched from the May 11 race card, though by that afternoon few were still under observation.

"It stopped what could have been a huge fire and a huge disaster, and probably the tragic death of 200 horses," Plainridge president Gary Piontkowski told the television station.

Joubert said that the fire most likely began from a heating element used to warm water that was left unattended.

**Readers are cautioned to seek the advice of a qualified veterinarian before proceeding with any diagnosis, treatment, or therapy.**



*Copyright © 2010 BLOOD-HORSE PUBLICATIONS. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without written permission of BLOOD-HORSE PUBLICATIONS is prohibited. THE HORSE, THE HORSE logo, THEHORSE.COM and THEHORSE.COM logo are trademarks of BLOOD-HORSE PUBLICATIONS.*