

## The Open Sanctuary Project's Fire Prevention Checklist

*All of the structures on your sanctuary's grounds **must** have fire safety protocols for the protection of your residents and their human caregivers. Review this checklist regularly as a starting point for fire prevention for each of your structures. If you are looking for additional fire prevention tips, contact your local fire department and ask for an inspection.*

### GENERAL

- Do you have an accessible fire safety and evacuation plan for this structure?
- Do your residents have an established place to go in the event of an evacuation?
- Can you identify all of the residents in this structure individually if evacuated?
- Are your sanctuary's residents able to escape the structure in the event of a fire?\*(  
*(\*Depending on the species of resident and the predator situation in your area)*)
- Do your caregivers have immediate access into this structure in case of emergency?
- Do you regularly test hay moisture on delivery to prevent self-composting combustion?

### EQUIPMENT

- Does this structure have a fire extinguisher with the appropriate chemical mixture?
- Is your fire extinguisher tested and up-to-date? Do you know the replacement date?
- Is your staff trained to use the provided fire extinguisher? Do they know your fire plan?
- Does this structure have a lightning rod? Is the structure grounded?
- Can you minimize or eliminate prolonged use of extension cords in this structure?
- Do all of your power outlets have constant use covers in this structure?
- If you use smoke detectors, are they free of dust, tested, and operational?
- Ensure that all lightbulbs are encased in full cages; consider switching to LED bulbs.
- Consider switching to reinforced metal light switches if possible.
- Ensure residents cannot directly access or create nests on top of heating elements.
- Avoid the use of any exposed heating elements if at all possible.
- Consider switching to ceramic wall-mounted heating panels instead of lamps if possible.

### MAINTENANCE

- Seal or repair any exposed or falling insulation in the structure's walls or ceilings.
- Check any heaters, fans, and tools for inconsistent operation or sparking.
- Ensure that all exposed wiring is encased in conduit, check all conduit for damage.
- Replace and reinforce any wire or device that has been chewed on by rodents.
- Check auto-waterers for exposed heating elements. Ensure heated auto-waterers are pig-proof if pigs have access to them.

### CLEANING

- Keep a regular dusting schedule for this structure and every electrical element within it.
- Ensure backup power generators are clean and far away from any flammable materials.
- Dust and clear all heating elements and power sources more often in winter. Remember that ceramic heaters and heat lamps **can never** have dust on or in them!