

FARM SAFETY

LIFE SAVING TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in and outside all bedrooms and in all principal buildings.
- Install the appropriate fire extinguishers in key areas.
- Work with the local fire department to develop and practice a fire escape plan with family and employees and determine a meeting place.
- Identify who may require special help - including the elderly or handicapped.
- Make sure buildings are well spaced.
- Keep cistern and stock pond safely full and provide clear access to water source or pond.
- Ensure that appropriate fire protection equipment is accessible.

CHECKLIST

- Keep fire department # posted on all telephones.
- Ensure that all electrical wiring is inspected and up to code.
- Ensure that all electrical equipment has a nationally recognized testing agency certification.
- Replace worn wiring and use only 15 amp fuses unless otherwise specified.
- Use only GFI circuit breakers and/or outlets in damp or wet areas.
- Install "No Smoking" signs in all buildings.
- Inspect and maintain fire extinguishers regularly.

MACHINERY/ EQUIPMENT - Keep it clean, safe and inspected

- Before installing heating equipment, check product certification and insurance requirements.
- Ensure water pump dedicated to fire fighting is on a separate electrical circuit and located away from other buildings to safeguard water pressure in the event of a fire.
- Refuel equipment and internal combustion engines outside. Ensure equipment is cool and never refuel while running.
- Ensure that crop dryers are equipped with adequate controls enabling them to shut off blowers or dampers when temperatures become too high in the heat transfer chamber.
- Never use "home-made" dryers.

LIFE SAVING BEHAVIOURS

- Before burning any rubbish, clearing material, leaves, etc., always check regulations with your local authority first.
- Burn rubbish in an incinerator equipped with a spark arrestor and NEVER in a high wind.
- Keep a supply of water nearby.
- Never carry out field burning.
- Designate safe smoking areas away from barns, crops, stores or flammable materials.
- Do not use fumigants near an open flame or electric equipment.
- Clean up! Never allow excessive amounts of flammable material to collect on the property.
- Repaint weathered surfaces and remove rotting wood and fencing.

SAFE STORAGE - Spontaneous ignition of crops causes fires

Before Storing:

- Provide proper ventilation.
- Ensure crops - hay, alfalfa, clover, soybean hays - are well dried and properly cured.
- Ensure wet grains are below the safe moisture content before storing.
- Check regularly for spontaneous heating hazards, e.g. manure pile.
- Repair leaking roofs and openings to protect stored crops against moisture.

During Storage:

- During the first month of storage, inspect daily for signs of steaming, irritating odours, wet areas and "flues" in the hay.
- Have fire fighting equipment immediately accessible.
- Petroleum products should be stored in a tank on non-combustible supports, above ground, and at least 12 meters (40 feet) from any other building.. In all cases, vent pipes not less than 3 centimeters (1/4") inside diameter capped with weatherproof hoods should be provided.
- Petroleum products should be dispensed from storage tanks by appropriate pumping equipment.