

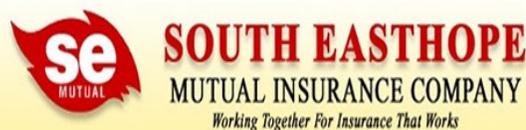


# FARM FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

## INSIDE YOU WILL FIND:

- Farm Fire Facts
- Quick Tips -10 Simple Steps
- Farm Fire Safety for Kids
- What to do in the event of a fire
- Statistics you should know
- Preventative Steps
- Information to give 9-1-1
- Fire Safety Plan Info

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE PARTNERS IN FARM FIRE SAFETY:**



Perth-Huron Insurance  
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## FARM FIRE FACTS:

1. Most fires on farms could have been prevented with simple fire safety measures and regular equipment and electrical checks.
2. Fires on farms differ from their residential counterparts in that farms are usually isolated from firefighting equipment and don't have immediate access to the fire department or abundant sources of water
3. Horses are difficult to evacuate from a burning building – they tend to either refuse to leave what they feel are the safe confines of their stall or they will often run back into the burning building if turned loose too close to their stable.
4. Many pig and poultry operations suffer total livestock loss due to the fragility of the animals themselves and the density in which they are housed.
5. You can request a fire inspection and/or help to create a fire plan for your farm by contacting your local fire department.
6. Keeping the grass located within 10 meters of all buildings to 10 centimeters or less in height will keep a fire from spreading to surrounding vegetation.
7. Sprinkler systems are the single most effective form of defense against barn fires.
8. A broom and rake are two of the best fire prevention tools farm owners can have – removing debris, dust, hay, straw and cobwebs on a regular basis will remove potential fire pathways.
9. Lightning rods are the best protection against naturally occurring electricity. Lightning rods give lightning a direct path to follow to the ground.
10. Machinery, vehicles, or any other gas or diesel-powered equipment should not be parked or stored in a building where livestock are housed. Not only can this equipment create heat, sparks or flammable fumes, they also tend to accumulate clutter and items stored in or around them, further creating fire hazards.



## QUICK TIPS – 10 Simple Steps:

1. Do not allow smoking in or around barns or near any flammable farm materials.
2. Situate manure piles at least 10 meters away from barns to reduce the chance of combustion.
3. Ensure hay and straw are properly dried before storing it in the barn.
4. Keep dust and cobwebs to a minimum
5. For horse barns, leave horses haltered or hang halters and leads on stall doors should evacuation be required.
6. Question and/or remove unknown, unlicensed and unauthorized persons from the premises.
7. Regularly check all appliances, wiring, electrical equipment and heat-producing materials and equipment to ensure everything is in safe, working order.
8. Repair/replace any frayed or damaged wiring as soon as it is identified.
9. Never refuel engines inside a building or while the engine is running or hot.
10. Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should be removed after use.

## FARM FIRE SAFETY FOR KIDS:

- **Know how to call 9-1-1** and give them the farm's address
- If you see a fire, call for help – **DO NOT** go near the fire!
- Matches and lighters are for adults, not kids
- Clean up your mess - sweep the floor well & get rid of cobwebs!
- Designate one place outside where all members of your family will meet in case there is a fire – this will let you count and make sure all of your family members are safe.
- Make sure every member of the family knows and has practiced fire escape routes, knows where all fire extinguishers are and that all adults know First Aid.
- Get out and stay out! If a building is on fire, stay away!
- If your clothes catch fire, remember to **STOP, DROP and ROLL.**



## WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:

- Get everyone out of the building
- Call 9-1-1, give as much information and as many details as you can
  - *Complete name and address of your farm*
  - *Identify if anyone is injured or in immediate danger*
  - *Identify the number and type of livestock or crops*
  - *Identify the type of building (barn, driving shed, silo, etc.)*
  - *Identify any hazardous materials that is stored in the building*
- Evacuate livestock contained in areas of the building that are not on fire
- Clear the path – remove vehicles, equipment or any other objects that will obstruct emergency services from getting to your property and buildings.
- Obey the fire department's instructions during and after the fire

## FAILING TO PLAN IS PLANNING TO FAIL

Contacting your fire department and requesting a fire inspection is the first step to creating a farm fire prevention plan. A plan that is well thought out, frequently reviewed and often practiced can save lives, livelihood and livestock. Some items your plan may cover:

- Placement and identified location of:
  - *Fire extinguishers and Exits*
  - *Smoke alarms and Sprinkler system*
  - *Water sources*
  - *Telephones and intercom systems*
- Floor plans and blueprints of all buildings, structures and property
- Storage and identified location of:
  - *Hazardous or flammable materials*
  - *Vehicles, machinery and gas or diesel-powered equipment*
  - *Aerosol sprays*
- Escape routes and procedures
- Animal evacuation routes and procedures
- Electrical, mechanical and structural inspection schedule
- Maintenance and cleaning checklist and schedule



# YOU ARE THE EXPERT ON YOUR OWN FARM



Emergency personnel often determine their response strategy on the way to the scene and base it on the information provided by the 911 dispatcher. Chances are neither the dispatcher or the responders know the details of your farming operation, therefore it is imperative that you exercise some preventative measures to ensure emergency services are prepared in the event of a fire. Here are some tips on the information you can tell 9-1-1 should you make the call.

## **Preventative Steps:**

- Request a tour of your farm with the Fire Chief to discuss fire safety strategies
- Develop a fire safety plan
- Identify sources of water (ponds, hoses, hydrants)
- Create and practice emergency and evacuation processes and procedures
- Ensure that the farm name and/or 9-1-1 address is displayed at the entrance to your farm and ensure these items are easily seen during both day and night.
- Conduct annual training on the use of fire extinguishers and other fire suppression equipment
- Appoint someone (family member or staff) to assume the role of coordinating the efforts of others in the event of a fire
- Post and review maps of your property, buildings, structures and water sources

## **Information to give 9-1-1:**

- It is imperative that everyone know the specific address (i.e. 9876 Road 101) of the farm, the name of the farm, and any other details that would enable emergency responders to identify your farm.
- Identify if there are persons unaccounted for
- List the type and number of livestock that are in danger
- Let 9-1-1 know of any storage areas containing flammable or combustible materials
- Provide a warning to 9-1-1 in the event that livestock are running loose on the property
- Provide a list of any known water sources such as ponds, lakes, rivers and streams
- Identify any vehicles or other gas-operated equipment that are contained in the buildings, structures or areas in or around the fire.

## **STATISTICS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- Each year in Canada, there are approximately 800 deaths due to fires, many on farms
- The three major elements of fire are air, heat and fuel
- The leading causes of fires are: careless smoking, faulty electrical equipment and faulty heating equipment
- Each year, hundreds of thousands of livestock animals are lost to barn fires
- It takes 500 gallons of water per minute to fight a hay fire of 250 bales.
- In 2001, a total of 55,323 fires were reported in Canada; 338 fire deaths; 2,310 fire injuries; and a total of \$1,420,779,985 in property losses.



## **Contact the West Perth Fire Department:**

(519)595-2800 [fireadmin@pertheast.ca](mailto:fireadmin@pertheast.ca)