

DAILY UPKEEP

- Look for fire hazards every day.
- When you find a fire hazard, repair it or get rid of it.
- Good housekeeping is good fire prevention. A clean, orderly workplace and well-kept equipment and tools are less likely to produce fire.
- Good preventive maintenance not only prolongs equipment life but also reduces fire hazards.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Many daily agricultural products are highly flammable
- Do not sacrifice your own or your family's safety and livelihood being careless with fire.



Fire hazards are numerous around the farm and ranch. By practicing good fire prevention daily, YOU can keep your farm or ranch from becoming a statistic.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Rural Fire Protection Program
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Lincoln, NE 68583-0815**

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**For more free resources about reporting wildfires
please visit www.nfs.unl.edu.**

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FIRE PREVENTION ON YOUR FARM AND RANCH



Farm and ranch families have always been concerned with fire. Long distances from fire departments result in longer emergency response times. The lack of adequate water for fire fighting is another common problem. These two factors combine to make a fire on the farm or ranch extremely costly and potentially dangerous.

America's rural residents are 1/4 of the nation's population living on 98 percent of the land. Rural residents must give fire prevention first priority in protecting their homes, families, and businesses. Fire prevention on the farm or ranch starts with YOU.

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In Case of Fire

When a fire is discovered, call the fire department at once. DO NOT attempt to fight the fire yourself. Remember, any delay in the arrival of the fire department can be disastrous.

Keep the fire department's telephone number posted prominently near the telephone. Keep directions to your farm or ranch near the phone to aid visitors or individuals who are not familiar with your area.



Livestock and fire

While livestock is not normally considered a fire hazard, the environment in which they are placed can contain many fire hazards in the form of tools and equipment.

- Secure heat lamps to a solid object that will not fall into bedding materials if bumped.
- Use non-combustible bedding, such as dry sand instead of straw, when using heat lamps. If it is necessary to use extension cords for heat lamps or portable heaters, make sure the wire size is sufficient for the electrical load.

Keep all electrical wiring out of areas that can be accessed by livestock. Prevent damage to wiring insulation by using conduit to protect the wire from livestock chewing or rubbing. Install electric fencers properly, with sufficient clearance from combustibles.

Safe Fueling

Too often during the busy season on a farm or ranch, safe fueling practices are ignored in an effort to save a little time. The few seconds saved are insignificant when compared to the loss of expensive farm equipment or weeks, even months, spent in a hospital due to carelessness.

- Never refuel equipment with the engine running.
- Allow hot engines to cool for 15 minutes before refueling.
- Extinguish all open flames and smoking materials before refueling.
- If fuel spills on an engine, wipe away any excess and allow the fumes to dissipate.

Flammable Liquids

Flammable liquids, such as gasoline, diesel, oils, solvents and cattle dips, are frequently used on farms and ranches. Most liquids of this type are stored in shop and maintenance areas, which also contain many sources of ignition. Extreme caution must be taken with these products.

- Flammable liquids should be stored in a designated area away from all sources of heat, such as welders, grinders, heaters, electrical motors, and hot engines.
- Flammable liquids should be stored in Underwriter Laboratories (UL) approved containers. Plastic milk jugs, pop bottles, glass jars, and coffee cans are not approved containers.
- Use flammable liquids in well-ventilated areas. Vapors from these liquids can travel great distances to an ignition source.

Open Burning

History shows that as long as man has been farming, he has used fire as a tool to clear fields. Unfortunately, each year thousands of acres and millions of dollars are lost to careless burning practices.

- Check local, county or state laws on open burning. Always obtain a permit to burn from the local fire department.
- Be aware of the weather conditions and be flexible. If weather conditions are unfavorable or forecast to be, postpone the burning.
- Be aware of your surroundings and other combustibles. Protect buildings and fences.
- Look up. Watch for power lines and tree branches.
- Build a fire break to contain the fire.
- Keep firefighting tools, such as rakes, shovels and garden hoses, on hand for small fires. Discs, plows and large sprayers are needed for large fires. Have plenty of help

Remember, fires can grow extremely fast. A small fire can rapidly become a raging wildfire with a gust of wind. If a fire appears to be getting away, call your fire department immediately. Never leave a fire unattended.

Machinery Fires

Checking for and fixing the hazards before starting work each day will reduce the chance of costly equipment fires.

Look for:

- any build-up of crop residue around the engine, exhaust systems, belts and chains
- damaged exhaust system components
- worn or badly frayed drive belts
- broken or exposed electrical wiring
- the odor of burning electrical wiring
- worn or misaligned moving parts, which can indicate a lack of lubricant
- signs of leaking fluids and fuel