

Fire Safety on the Farm

The U.S. has one of the highest fire deaths rates in the industrial world. For 1997, the U.S. fire death rate was 15.2 deaths per million people. According to the National Fire Data Center, there were 4050 deaths and 23,750 injuries due to fire in 1997. These were the result of 1,795,000 fires that took place in 1997. 84% of all fatalities occurred in the home. Children, especially age 5 and under, are at the greatest risk of home fire-related death and injury. Young children don't know what to do and are likely to panic in a fire. They may hide in a closet or behind a bed instead of escaping. Teaching people how to prevent fire and what to do if fire strikes can save lives and property. Ninety percent of child fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke detectors.



One way to prevent fires in the house is to install smoke detectors. After purchasing smoke detectors, where should they go? The best place for smoke detectors is... outside the bedrooms and on each level in the home.

Fires on farms cause millions in property damage annually. The average fire on the farm results in three to six times the losses of the average residential fire. Fire extinguishers are essential items on the farm. Remember barns, other farm buildings, and farm implements when placing fire extinguishers!

Prevent a tragedy on your farm by following these guidelines.

- Test smoke detectors once a month and replace the batteries once a year.
- Replace smoke detectors that are ten years of age or older.
- Place proper fire extinguishers in strategic locations, making sure they are accessible.
- Get training on how to use fire extinguishers.
- Plan your escape routes.
- Keep matches away from children.
- Don't enter a confined livestock area or housing structure if it catches on fire.
- Designate one place outside where family members should meet in case of fire.
- Install lightening rods.
- Store gasoline and other flammable fuels in proper containers in a cool place.
- Turn off engines when refueling machines.

Ask the local fire department for an inspection of your farm. Both you and the fire department will be better prepared if a fire should occur.

