



FARM SAFETY CHECK

COVID-19
FRIENDLY

Farm Safety Check: Preventing Building Fires

Fires pose serious threats to the wellbeing of livestock and humans. Farms have many flammable materials, such as pesticides, cobwebs, dust, bedding, hay, straw, paint, fertilizer, and paper. In the winter, additional threats to safety include the physical distance from farms to the closest fire station, poor road conditions, windy conditions that can intensify the fire, heating equipment, rodent bedding, and damaged wires and cords. Given these farm hazards, prevention is key. Take a moment today to save a life tomorrow.

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the form below to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your farm. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections. Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at:

<http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Reviewed by: Kyle Koshalek from [National Farm Medicine Center](#) and Pittsville Fire Company Chief Jerry Minor

Disclaimer: Don't forget to wear a mask and follow all social distancing practices in the applicable situations below.

Potential Hazard	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Are flammable and combustible liquids in labeled containers (Underwriters Laboratories or Factory Mutual approved cans for gasoline)? Note the quantity, date purchased, and type of liquid. These should be placed in appropriate safety cabinets with a warning sign.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are flammable materials kept away from machinery, heating sources, and electrical equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you check the internal temperature of hay bales daily? Bales should be in groups of 10 or fewer, at least 100 feet away from structures, and with a fire break of at least 30 feet between the groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are used oil rags stored in a properly sealed container and away from heat sources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you refuel outside and when machinery has cooled?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you immediately clean up spilled flammable liquids?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are engines lubricated and exhaust systems properly maintained to prevent sparking and backfiring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is wiring free of damage and unexposed? Repair bent plugs and frayed cords. Wrap wires in corrosion-resistant metal conduit pipes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are extension cords rated for outdoor use and used for only temporary purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you unplug appliances not in use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are up-to-date class ABC fire extinguishers in every building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are electrical outlets, electrical panels, fans, and lights clean and free of debris?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does everyone regularly practice fire drills, including how to use a fire extinguisher?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Are there at least two marked exits in each building, a fire hose and bucket, and cleared pathways? Is good ventilation maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have workers received proper training for emergencies? Are regular fire drills conducted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the yard clear of debris so fire apparatus can fit down the driveway and set up? A driveway width of 12 – 14 feet is preferred.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you invited your local fire department out to your farm for a virtual fire safety “tour”?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is smoking restricted to designated areas only?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there fully functioning smoke detectors and/or sprinklers located inside livestock buildings and buildings with flammable material?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are heat lamps securely placed, clean, and in good repair?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is a properly maintained rodent control program in place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: ____/____/____

Additional Hazards	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Farm Fire Prevention Guide

Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH)

Fire Prevention and Safety Measures Around the Farm

Rutgers - New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Tips to help prevent winter barn fires

Jason Hartschuh - Farm and Dairy

Top 10 Winter Farm Fire Hazards

STOP FYRE

Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health (RF-DASH)

Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) & National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC)

The facts and information provided are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to ensure your safety, and are not an endorsement of any products mentioned.

For additional Farm Safety Check topics and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

To receive Farm Safety Check topics via email, join the UMASH email list at <http://umash.umn.edu/join-our-email-list>

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