

Fires Can Be Prevented

Editor's Note: This article is published in response to a resolution presented by an Institute and passed by the Provincial Board, asking that something on fire prevention be published in Home and Country.

FIRES IN HOMES

MORE than half the fires and most deaths from fire occur in homes, says the Ontario Fire Marshal. And practically all can be prevented by heeding these simple rules:

Smoking—Do not smoke in bed, in the attic, closets or garage.

Matches — Keep out of reach of children's hands. Place used matches in incombustible trays. Keep "strike anywhere" matches in closed metal boxes. "Safety" matches are safest.

Extinguish smokes and matches before discarding. Be sure they are cold. Never use matches to look for articles in dark places. Flashlights are safe.

Trash and Rubbish—Keep cleaned out, especially in basement, attic and closets. Burn safely and never on windy days. Use rubbish burners in built-up areas. Watch fires till out.

Flues and Heating Plants—Have them cleaned, examined and repaired if necessary once a year. Protect exposed woodwork with incombustible shields or mats. Do not pass stovepipes through ceilings, roofs or wooden partitions. Never overheat.

Flue Stops—Use metal kind. Do not paper over flue holes or stuff with rags.

Ashes—Use only metal receptacles. Do not dump hot ashes against anything which can burn.

Gasoline, Benzine, Naphtha—Do not store or use on home premises. They give off explosive vapors even at very low temperatures.

Kerosene—Do not use to start a fire. Flashbacks and explosions kill and maim scores yearly.

Electricity—Have a licensed electrician do all electrical work and repairs. Do not use a lamp cord for circuit extensions or hang it over nails.

Electric Fuses—Use 15 ampere fuses for ordinary circuits. Never plug blown fuses with pennies nor replace with oversize fuses. Keep extra fuses on hand.

Electric Irons—Always disconnect current before leaving them.

Gas Tubing—Replace with rigid pipe.

Gas Plates—Protect underneath with asbestos covered with metal.

Oil Burners—Use only equipment that has been approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories Inc. or the Canadian Standards Association. Look for the approval label.

Open Lights, Lamps—Do not have near curtains or combustible materials.

Decorations—Do not place flimsy or combustible decorations over electric light globes or near open lights or heaters.

Oily Mops, Oily Rags—Keep mop in closed metal can. Destroy rags. They ignite spontaneously.

The above recommendations are based on fire department records showing the most frequent causes of fires.

FIRES ON FARMS

The Fire Marshal's office also gives the following principal causes of fires on farm properties and how to prevent them: There is some duplication of the advice given above concerning fires in homes, but some things can scarcely be said too often.

Lightning—Get your buildings properly rod-ded by an Agent holding a Fire Marshal license.

Lanterns—A cheap lantern is expensive; get a good one. Fill the reservoir with cotton batting. It will still hold sufficient oil. Do not place on floor; dogs, calves and other animals do not know the danger. Hang the lantern in a secure place. Keep it clean.

Sparks on Roof—Use metal or fireproof roofing. If you must have wooden shingles put asbestos or mortar under them. Have a good-sized ladder and a chemical extinguisher handy. Watch the drafts on your stove.

Stoves, Pipes, and Defective Chimneys—Keep stoves and pipes clear of woodwork and drying clothes. Keep pipes clean and well secured. They should not enter chimney in an unused room or garret and never vertically. Have chimney cleaned and inspected regularly. A new brick chimney built from the ground and tile-lined costs less than a fire.

Electricity—All wiring should be installed by an expert and inspected by the Area "Hydro" Inspector. Don't leave the current on the iron when answering the door or telephone. Don't heat the bed with an electric lamp. Don't keep a motor in a dusty place.