

Loss By Fire Last Year Amounts To \$5.70 For Every Canadian

By proclamation the Governor-General of Canada will decree that the week of October 9-15, 1955, be observed as Fire Prevention Week across the nation.

This week is always the calendar week including October 9, the anniversary of the great Chicago fire of 1871. Such a disaster serves to underline the necessity of bringing before the public a much needed awareness of Fire Prevention.

Fire Prevention Week should not be regarded just as a seven-day period for projecting fire prevention programs, displaying posters all over the community, school drills and civic group meetings. Rather, it should be regarded as the week of initiation of a year-round activity promoted to make our country a safer place in which to live.

Not New Institution

Fire Prevention Week is not a new institution. It has, over a period of years, developed and increased in significance and earned a respected place in the regular affairs of every progressive community in Canada and the United States. It signifies the commencement of a campaign which should be carefully planned so as to enlist the co-operation of every citizen and of every organization in the community for a concerted effort to prevent, as far as possible, loss of life and property as a result of fires.

Response to Fire Prevention

Cars Smashed Cattle Killed In Train Wreck

A CPR freight train telescoped into a CNR freight at a siding at Oakville Saturday night, smashing carloads of cattle, oats, oil and lumber. The only casualties were five head of cattle, killed when their boxcar was piled onto the coal tender ahead.

Damage was estimated by a CNR official at at least \$80,000. A CPR official said a joint investigation will be launched to determine the cause of the crash.

The CNR mixed freight was pulling westbound from a siding when the westbound CPR freight piled into it at the 18th car.

Freight and passenger service on one of the CNR's busiest division lines was disrupted for emergency repairs were made, passenger service was rerouted through Georgetown. The main line track and its ties were lifted and moved four feet to one side for a distance of almost 200 feet.

None of the CPR engine was hurt in a roadbed gravel as 10 boxcars were derailed. The cars were spread over the tracks but an all-night crew was able to clear one line by 4 a.m.

Using heavy cranes on wheels, more than 100 local "Trotway" men worked during the night to clear the tracks of wreckage. They had to move a carload of grain spilled when the front of the car was ripped and piles of lumber that were emptied from another boxcar.

The cattle, about 60 head, were riding in two boxcars behind the CNR freight engine, bound from the siding for the London area. At the impact, the cars were shoved upward.

A veterinarian, Dr. A. W. Cairns, was called to the scene from his Oakville home.

OBITUARY Mrs. A. C. Turner Passes In Hospital

A resident of this district all her life, Pearl Elizabeth Turner of Campbellville passed away at St. Joseph's hospital, Hamilton, on Tuesday, September 27. Mrs. Turner was born in 1897, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Twiss.

Her husband, Alfred C. Turner, survives, as well as their three children, Sandra, Bert and Betty Lou all at home; a brother, Reg. Twiss; and three sisters, Mrs. Charles Harris and Mrs. Bill Shields of Milton and Mrs. George Burns of Campbellville.

She was a member of the Women's Institute and the W.A. of St. John's Anglican church, Nassagaweya.

Rev. Jeffares conducted the funeral service on Friday, September 30 with interment in St. John's church cemetery. The assisting minister was Rev. R. Porritt. Pallbearers were Clarke Harris, Bill Shields, George Burns, Charles Harris, Charles Baynton and Jim McLaren.

STRANGE SIGHT

North Bay, Ont. (CP) — Two American tourists said they saw an alligator among lily pads at nearby Pine Lake but many people here feel the tourists saw a northern horn member of the lizard family. Tales of alligators here go back 10 years when a visitor is believed to have brought one with him.

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Half of All Fires in Homes

Let us look at the latest available annual fire loss record in our country. The total property loss by fire was \$84,270,896.00, representing a loss per person of \$5.70. These losses represent an increase of about \$4,000,000.00 over the previous year when the total loss was \$80,902,205.00, with a loss per person of \$5.61. The record shows 67,519 fires, an increase of 3,416 over the previous year. The loss of life by fire was 477 as compared to 562 in the previous year.

It is indeed tragic to note that the record shows that more than half of all the fires in Canada occur in homes. This fact alone should emphasize beyond any doubt the need for fire prevention.

This heavy toll of destruction of life and property by fire must not continue. A strong and vigorous campaign should be launched during Fire Prevention Week and followed up without respite throughout the year.

Smoking, Matches Main Causes Of Fires; Electricity Comes Next

In the last decade fire has killed more than 100,000 persons and burned and disfigured many hundreds of thousands more.

Each year about 12,000 Americans die needlessly in fire and more than twice that number are severely burned or disfigured for life. Old people and pre-school children are the principal victims of fire.

Every day there are 1150 home fires... 34 deaths by fire... 103 store fires... 101 factory fires...

82 barn fires... 12 school fires... 4 hospital fires.

The combined U.S. and Canadian fire loss total in 1954 was over one billion dollars!

Most deaths by fire tragically involve women and children in the home. Many are suffocated by smoke and fire gases without being actually burned. Many deaths — too many — are caused by people falling asleep while smoking or re-entering burning homes to rescue pets and personal belongings.

The eight principal fire causes in the home in order of frequency are: 1. careless, smoking and handling of matches; 2. misuse of electricity; 3. defective or overheated heating and cooking equipment; 4. improper disposal of rubbish; 5. careless handling of kerosene, gasoline and other flammable liquids; 6. lighting; 7. defective or overheated chimneys; 8. children and matches.

Don't give fire a place to start — prevent it. From October 9 until 15 is Fire Prevention Week.

Have Fire Hazards Nine of Ten Homes

Nine out of ten homes contain fire and accident hazards which could prove disastrous.

Safety experts said most older houses and many new ones were inadequately wired for modern electrical appliances. In addition, they warned that the average house contains a number of other hazards which may lead to fire or accident. They recommended the following precautions:

1. Have electric wiring checked this fall by qualified electricians.
2. Leaves should be raked frequently and burned at a safe distance from houses and garages.
3. When storing summer clothing, remove matches from pockets.
4. Store inflammable painting and cleaning materials in carefully marked safety cans; destroy rags or clothing which have been soaked with paint, furniture polish or wax.
5. Make sure children's toys are not left lying in dangerous places.
6. Clear old newspapers, rubbish and other inflammable material from garages, attics and spare rooms.
7. Have chimney and heating system checked and cleaned.
8. Make sure the approach to your house is safe for family, visitors and tradesmen.

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK — OCTOBER 9th to 15th —

Matches and Careless Smoking Habits

Careless discarding of lighted matches and smoking materials was responsible for nearly 30 per cent. of all fires from known causes over a ten-year period. A burning match or tobacco debris recklessly tossed aside may start a disastrous fire taking heavy toll of lives and property.

This hazard will remain enormous until caution as a national habit replaces carelessness. Remember, one little thoughtless act may take your home — even your life!

Here are a few common sense precautions:

1. Keep all matches out of the reach of small children. Matches with easily inflammable heads should be kept in non-combustible containers.
2. Have plenty of ash trays conveniently placed—and keep them clean.
3. Anywhere — be sure your lighted matches or smokes are completely snuffed out before you discard them.
4. Don't smoke in bed or where No Smoking Signs are posted.
5. Don't strike matches in closets, garages or other places where inflammable materials, dust, or vapors may be ignited.

Faulty Electrical Wiring and Apparatus

One in ten fires of known causes is of electrical origin. Circuits are designed to carry certain loads. The blowing of a fuse is a danger signal that the circuit is overloaded or defective.

The use of a fuse of larger amperage than that for which the circuit was designed destroys this protective feature. An overload of current may heat the wire to the point of starting a fire. Be sure your fuses are of correct amperage for your circuits—15 amperes usually are right, and don't tamper with this "safety valve."

A few common sense precautions:

1. Employ a skilled electrician to repair or extend wiring when this is necessary.
2. Buy electric appliances and cords bearing the seal or label of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
3. Don't string wires under rugs, over hooks, or in any exposed places. Wear may make them dangerous.

Heating and Cooking Stoves, Etc.

One out of every four or five fires is caused by faulty chimneys, flues, cooking or heating stoves, furnaces, carelessness with fireplaces or hot ashes, or sparks on roofs, etc. Most frequent causes of destructive fires in heating plants or appliances are: sub-standard equipment, incorrect installation and construction, lack of care in maintenance and unsafe operation.

All heating plans, pipes or appliances should be at least 18 inches away from any wall or burnable material. Heaters, including stoves, should be on insulated metal, cement or other incombustible bases. Walls and ceilings near stoves should be protected by asbestos sheeting or other insulating material listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Consult your local fire ordinance or building code, your fire chief or insurance agent for advice, if needed.

Clean chimneys every year, and repair promptly when cracks or loose mortar appear. Never "force" a furnace to get more heat. Consult your heating man about increasing its efficiency safely. Empty hot ashes into metal containers — never into wooden boxes.

Let's Grow up -- Not Burn Up!

90 PER CENT. OF ALL FIRES ARE PREVENTABLE IF YOU—

- INSPECT PROPERTY REGULARLY
- DETECT FIRE HAZARDS PROMPTLY
- CORRECT FIRE HAZARDS IMMEDIATELY
- BUILD SAFELY AND WELL
- LIMIT WHAT THERE IS TO BURN
- SAFEGUARD ALL SOURCES OF IGNITION
- REMEMBER THAT CLEAN PROPERTY SELDOM BURNS
- KNOW WHAT TO DO IF FIRE BREAKS OUT

Let's make EVERY week FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

ACTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

In Case of Fire, Call Operator at Acton. Give Address Distinctly!