

It Is Patriotic To Be Very Careful To Avoid Fires

Dominion Fire Prevention Association Appealing Especially to Children

Recognize That if the Children are Fire Prevention Conscious, Unnecessary Fire Losses Will Not Continue Through Another Generation. Also, if Children are Interested the Parents Will Soon be Influenced.

For many years past fire chiefs and firemen, volunteer and salaried have been waging a continued and persistent campaign for fire prevention. Added to this is the effective work of the Dominion Fire Commissioner and the Provincial Fire Marshals and their staffs. These forces have enlisted the co-operation of newspapers, municipal councils, service clubs and other bodies to advance the cause of fire prevention. With far-sighted vision these agencies have paid particular attention to the children of the Dominion. They have not stopped with the idea of safety for the children in the schools. Of course, fire drills have been featured, and there have been addresses on fire prevention to the children, with moving pictures and other plans to impress the children with the desirability of fire prevention. But the plan has gone even further. There has been an earnest and very intelligent effort to secure the real interest of the youngsters in the matter. Not only do these agencies recognize the fact that if the children really become "Fire Prevention Conscious" the fire losses in life and property will not continue through the next generation, but the very work of interesting the children suggests that parents will be influenced. They will catch some of the enthusiasm of their children and the interest of the youngsters is absolutely sure to turn the thoughts of all in the homes to this vital question.

The Dominion Fire Prevention Association, with headquarters at Ottawa has issued a "Home Inspection" form for children. This form is shown below:

Home Inspection for School Children

(Recommended by the Dominion Fire Prevention Association, Ottawa)

If used as suggested, this model questionnaire will bring the subject of fire prevention into the majority of homes in Canada. Teachers should instruct their pupils to copy the questions into their work books, take them home and enlist the assistance of their parents in providing the answers. On the following day, the work of the pupils should be reviewed by the teacher and lessons given upon the hazards that appear to be most general.

Questions to be Answered

- Name
Town
Street and No.
- Is there any rubbish, such as old papers, broken furniture, etc., in the attic?
- Is there any rubbish or inflammable material in the basement or closets?
- Is there any inflammable rubbish in the yard?
- Are floors under stoves protected by metal or otherwise?
- Are walls, ceilings and partitions protected from overheating of stoves, furnaces and pipes?
- How do you dispose of your ashes?
- Do you use "safety" matches only?
- Do you keep your matches away from heat and out of the reach of children?
- What is the material of the house and of the roof?
- Is the foundation enclosed?
- Are the chimneys in good repair?
- When were they last cleaned?
- Do stovepipes pass through attic or closets?
- Is there any unused stovepipe holes, how are they covered?
- Do you ever keep or use gasoline in the house?
For what purpose?
- Do you use a gasoline or coal oil stove for any purpose?
- How is your house heated?
- Are any gas connections made with rubber tubing?
- Name all the purposes for which coal oil is used in your home.
- Do you use oily cloths or mops?
If, so, where are they kept when not in use?
- Do you use an electric iron?
Is it always detached when left?
- Are there any pennies or substitutes behind fuse plugs?
- Are there any knots in electric cords or electric cords over nails?
- Has the radio a lightning arrester?
- Name any other fire hazard in or about your home.
- Have you any fire extinguishers?
Do you know how to use them?
- Where is the fire alarm box nearest your home?
- Do you know the fire department telephone number?
- Do you know how to turn in an alarm?

Who Will be the Next Victim of the Fierce Fire Demon?

Question Asked by the Dominion Fire Commissioner.

(By the Dominion Fire Commissioner)

Last year the Fire Demon numbered among his victims in Canada 263 men, women and children. In 1938, 118 children lost their lives by fire, while in 1939, the lives of 73 of our little ones were claimed. This is a staggering admission and the responsibility for such tragedies can in many cases be laid directly to the negligence of parents who far too often leave their helpless infants alone in the house while they visit neighbours or go to a show. These holocausts frequently occur in rural districts where neighbours are long distances away and the parents are unable to reach their burning home in time to save their children from a horrible death.

Every parent should realize that it is his duty to teach his children the principles of fire prevention. They should not be allowed to play with fire, matches should be kept out of their reach and the playing with celluloid tops should be discouraged. By a strict adherence to the use of common sense, parents can thus save themselves the bitter anguish and life-long regret which must ever be present when a child perishes by their neglect.

Importance of Fire Drills in the Schools

Safety of the Children the First Consideration.

(Bulletin No. 73, National Board of Fire Underwriters)

The first essential in the event of a fire in any school is to have the children leave the building in an orderly manner and to reach a point of safety without injury.

Questions of fire fighting, of salvaging wearing apparel, or of attempting in any way to save mere material things are secondary to the safety of the school children, and should not be undertaken until all the pupils and all the teachers, or others who are responsible for any group of pupils, have left the building and have been accounted for; even visitors must leave the building if only as an example, to the children, of orderly procedure. The matter of saving property from destruction can well be left in the hands of the fire department or to such adults as may be detailed to this work after all have left the building. The quick transmission of an alarm to the fire department is an essential which must always be provided for. Some states require a fire alarm box at each school building.

Fire safety for school children must provide a definite program by which the location of all the available exits will be known to all of the children. To accomplish this it is necessary to have frequent drills, well planned, properly supervised, and intelligently co-ordinated. When an actual fire occurs, the selection of the proper exit should be made without any hesitation.

Frequency of drills is more important in the primary and grammar grades than in the high school grades. By the time pupils have reached high school, the panicky feeling of a drill should no longer exist.

Every school building is different; the age, size, and nationality of children change yearly, and the teaching staff and building employees do not remain the same during the entire term. It is necessary therefore for each school to consider the question of removing the children from the building at a time of fire a personal one requiring a definite study by the principal or superintendent and the various adults working in the building. Drills for this purpose might be subdivided as follows: Plan, Purpose, Procedure.

Plan—The plan will depend upon the type, kind, design and location of the school building, the number of teachers, age of the children, the possible use of older children as monitors, and the general character and physical condition of the children. Special provisions must be made for the removal of those who are crippled, or otherwise have to be helped.

It may be necessary to completely re-assign the use of rooms to permit the quick exit of the younger children, who sometimes are improperly housed on upper floors. Definite detailed plans must be prepared, explained to the teaching staff and to others who may be called upon to act in a supervisory manner, and they should be modified as little as possible from any standardized drills used in other schools in the district. A standardized drill and fire alarm signal is an essential for every community.

Purpose—The purpose of any drill is to perform the operation a sufficient number of times so that it is possible in an emergency to carry it out in a natural unhurried manner. Drills therefore should be started during the first three days of school in the fall term. This first drill should be a slow-motion affair, so that all of the details can be explained and a full understanding obtained. Numerous other drills should be held during the early part of the fall term until the evacuation of the building becomes so well established that the influx of a few new pupils would not make it necessary to hold the drills so frequently in severe winter weather common in some states. Drills are to accustom people to the action which should be taken during a fire. Fires may occur at any minute, therefore no fixed time should be set for any drill no notification should be sent to any teacher, and the only ones notified should be those whose duty it is normally to transmit an alarm to the fire department. To completely evacuate the building is the main consideration and must always be borne in mind. Other work or duties should never be assigned which would interfere with the exit of any of the pupils.

Procedure—In executing fire drills, consideration should be given to the health of the children, but except at such times when there are epidemics of colds, the short time that children will be out of doors seldom endangers their health even in severe cold weather.

Practice in mass marching is always worthwhile. Release from discipline inside of a building is seldom advisable. Well disciplined drills can be made a part of the evolutions used when children leave auditoriums, gymnasiums, or go out of doors at recess time.

There are many ways to improve the execution of fire drills. They should be varied to correspond to the possibility of an exit being blocked, they must provide for classes to cross streets safely where sufficient yard space is not available, they must not leave children at locations where they would be injured by falling walls, they must not release children who in their excitement might return to the building, they must not be such as to interfere with the work of the firemen, nor should the firemen in any way block the exit of the children with their hose lines or ladders.

Exit drills should be planned and executed with the one thought of removing the children to a point of safety, and in carrying out this plan the advice and co-operation of the chief of the fire department should in all cases be requested. He should be more competent than any other person in your community to inspect the premises and to develop and aid in the execution of an efficient fire drill, whether as a test or as an emergency.

Progress Being Made in Preventing Unnecessary Fires

Are plans like "Fire Protection Week" worth while?

The answer is emphatically "Yes!" There has been considerable progress made in the matter.

Conditions to-day are very materially better than ten years ago—much better than 20 years ago.

But it is essential that this progress be continued. Also that further progress be made.

To achieve this, all will have to work together.

Co-operation is necessary. Help make Canada safe from fires.

There should be no armistice in the war against fire.

Fire Prevention of Special Importance on Canadian Farms

With Lack of Fire-Fighting Methods, Fire-Prevention Plans the More Necessary

By circumstances and conditions the farm has the most inadequate means for fighting fires, so on the farm it would appear that fire prevention should be very specially emphasized. This point is given its proper importance in the following article by the Dominion Fire Commissioner at Ottawa:

FIRE PREVENTION ON THE FARM

(By Dominion Fire Commissioner)
In the ten-year period 1930-1939, farm fire losses, exclusive of dwellings, in Canada amounted to nearly \$31,000,000 in 41,781 fires. Of the known causes, there are eight which are responsible for 85 per cent of the total losses in farm fires. This loss may be greatly reduced by the exercise of care and forethought. The eight major causes and suggestions for the elimination of hazards in connection with them are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs:

1. DEFECTIVE CHIMNEYS AND FLUES. Chimneys should be cleaned out regularly and not allowed to burn themselves out, as sparks often escape through cracks in the chimney and set fire to the attic, or they may drop on dry combustible roofing, setting fire to it. The safest type of chimney is a good brick chimney built from the ground up and lined with fire clay or vitrified clay of a thickness of at least 3-4 of an inch.

2. SPARKS ON COMBUSTIBLE ROOFS. This hazard can obviously be eliminated by means of incombustible roofing material instead of a material that will ignite readily when exposed to sparks or flying brands from other fires.

3. LIGHTNING. The tremendous toll of life and property damage annually caused by lightning can be materially reduced by means of well installed lightning rods which have proven to be nearly 100 per cent efficient.

4. SPONTANEOUS IGNITION. On farms this occurs most frequently in undercured or damp hay, although it also takes place in numerous other substances. To guard against this hazard, the following precautions should be observed: (a) Cure all hay well. (b) Do not pack the hay. (c) Do not place straw, fodder, bundles of grain or grass hay either at the bottom or top of mows of alfalfa, clover or soybean hays. (d) Guard against wetting of hay in storage from a leaky roof or open doors and windows. (e) Ventilate hay as much as possible immediately after it has been stored. (f) Avoid, if possible, wide, deep mows.

5. MATCHES. Make sure that your matches are completely out before discarding them. A good practice is to break them in two after the flame has been extinguished. Always strike matches away from you. Keep matches away from children and do not permit smoking in barns or near combustible material. During threshing operations insist on everybody clearing their pockets of matches and place them in a safe container.

6. GASOLINE OR KEROSENE. Gasoline or kerosene should never be used to start or revive a fire. Avoid the use of gasoline, benzine or other inflammable liquids for cleaning floors or clothes. There are safe and cheap solvents on the market for these purposes. Never fill lamps, lanterns, kerosene or gasoline stoves, while they are burning. If necessary to keep small quantities of

gasoline, it should be kept in an approved safety can painted red and plainly marked "Gasoline." Small quantities of kerosene should be kept in closed cans of a size and shape different from that holding gasoline in order to lessen the chance of mistaking the one for the other.

7. HEATING EQUIPMENT. Heating equipment should be properly installed, operated and maintained. Wooden floors under stoves should be well protected. The sides and back of stoves and ranges should be at least 3 feet from woodwork or wood-lath and plaster partitions. Avoid long runs of smoke pipes. The sections should be securely joined and the pipes supported at frequent intervals. Smoke pipes should be at least 18 inches from unprotected woodwork. They should not pass through floors or closets or enter a chimney in an attic, and they should be cleaned at least twice a year.

8. ELECTRICAL WIRING. Electrical wiring and repair work should be done by a competent electrical contractor. Circuits should not be overloaded and fuses of the correct ampere (15 amperes for the ordinary branch circuits) should be used. Disconnect irons, curling tongs, heating pads and other appliances when not in use.

Remove all possible fire hazards, but be prepared to fight a fire should it occur. Chemical extinguishers, pump-tank extinguishers, fire pails or barrels of water and ladders should be available on every farm.

Best Place to Start Fire Prevention is Right in the Home

Care About Small Dangers Will Avoid Big Fires.

The best place for fire prevention to start is in the home, writes the Dominion Fire Commissioner. Charity should start there according to the ancient saying, and certainly safety should come first. In order to safeguard the home, inspection should be made, not only Fire Prevention Week but periodically

throughout the year. All heating and lighting equipment examined, chimney and pipes kept clean of soot. No smoke pipes permitted through combustible walls; disposition of ashes safeguarded. The fuse cabinet should be of metal or asbestos lined. Fuses in all fuse blocks, none of them bridged, and not over 15 ampere fuses used in branch circuits. All drop cords should be insulated, and not supported on any conductive material. Electric irons always detached when not in use and kept on metal stands.

Matches should be kept out of the reach of children and the children should be regularly taught the danger of fire and not to play with matches. The safest type of match to use is the

"Safety Match" which may be lighted only on the box.

Closets should be kept clean and all rubbish removed from the entire premises. Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Perhaps that is the reason it always plays such an important part in fire prevention.

This year again special emphasis is being placed on the inspection of dwellings during Fire Prevention Week and you may expect a visit from your local firemen. Are you ready for them?

It's a good idea to know the exact location of the nearest fire alarm box.

Always stay at the fire alarm box after turning in an alarm, to direct the firemen.



If This Should Happen to You

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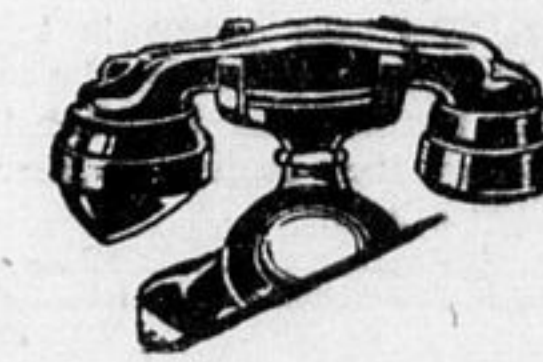
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