



FLASH POINTS

As summer draws to a close, the air begins to cool, and the days grow shorter. The once-bright, sun-drenched afternoons soften with a golden hue, as vibrant greens fade to rich yellows, oranges, and reds, marking the transition into autumn. The heat of summer gradually gives way to the refreshing crispness of fall mornings and evenings. There's a quiet comfort in the shift—windows open to welcome cool breezes, sweaters make their return, and hot drinks begin to replace the iced beverages of summer.

This seasonal change brings a mix of emotions. We say goodbye to the long, warm days and the carefree atmosphere of summer, but look forward to the cozy gatherings, layering up, and the beauty of nature's transformation. As we move into autumn, there's a natural inclination to slow down and prepare ourselves, just as the earth begins to rest and recharge for winter.

Yet, as the cooler months approach, it's important to remain mindful of practical safety measures to protect ourselves and our surroundings from the challenges that colder weather can bring.



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PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS

FARM SAFETY

Farming is a critical industry that sustains communities, economies, and the food supply chain. However, farms are highly susceptible to fires, which can cause extensive damage to barns or other structures, equipment, and livestock jeopardizing farmers' livelihoods. Unfortunately, due to the rural location of most farms, fire department response times are often delayed, resulting in more extensive damage.

Common fire hazards on farms include:

- Dry crops and hay: these can easily ignite especially during hot, dry weather.
- Flammable chemicals: fertilizers, pesticides, and fuels are all highly flammable.
- Electrical equipment: faulty wiring and malfunctioning equipment may spark fires.
- Machinery: overheated engines and sparks from machinery can ignite fires.
- Spontaneous combustion: piles of damp hay or straw can generate heat and ignite spontaneously.

Farm owners should regularly assess potential fire hazards and conditions that could lead to a blaze, while developing a thorough safety plan. By consistently following fire safety protocols and implementing preventive measures, the risk of a catastrophic fire can be significantly reduced.

FARM BUILDINGS UPKEEP

Regular maintenance of farm buildings, barns, and storage bins is essential for reducing fire risk. A proactive maintenance routine helps protect property and livestock from potential fire incidents. Here are some key considerations to help prevent fires in your buildings:

- Check and repair any structural damage.
- Train for emergencies and practice safety drills regularly.
- Keep storage areas for flammable materials cool and well-ventilated.
- Keep fire extinguishers maintained and nearby at several locations around the farm.
- Regularly clean facilities to decrease dust and other dry residues that can catch fire easily.
- Be sure security and temperature monitoring alarms are fully functioning inside livestock buildings.
- Inspect and repair electrical wiring and receptacles, especially in older buildings.



PREVENTING FARM EQUIPMENT FIRES

As harvest season ramps up, dry vegetation and overheated farm machinery can become a dangerous mix. It's crucial to regularly inspect and clean equipment, here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Remove debris from engines and exhaust areas.
- Carry a dry-chemical fire extinguisher in every tractor or combine.
- Repair loose or frayed electrical wiring and connectors.
- Replace worn or badly frayed drive belts.
- Check for signs of leaking fluids, oils, and fuel.
- Be cautious about where machinery is parked; avoid placing equipment inside machine sheds immediately after extended use.
- Observe parked farm equipment for 20-30 minutes to ensure there are no signs of a smoldering fire.

FARM SAFETY

GRAIN DRYER AND STORAGE MAINTENANCE

Grain drying and storage are critical in the fall to prevent spoilage and maintain the quality of your harvest. However, improper drying and storage can lead to fire risks. Below are some tips:

- Clean out any leftover grain and debris from last year's operation.
- Check burners visually for debris and all orifices are clean.
- Check electrical controls and switches to be sure the thermostats are controlling air temperatures accurately.
- Test the conveying equipment to ensure grain is moving in and out of the dryer properly.
- Check fan housing and blades for debris accumulation. Be sure the drain holes in the bottom of the fan housing are also kept clean.
- Look for wear on any belts and adjust tension. Also make sure all guards are in place.
- Grease and check all bearings ensuring the mounting bolts are tight and the collars are secured.



The flame color is a reliable indicator of proper grain dryer operation. A blue flame signifies that the burner is functioning correctly with complete combustion. However, if the flame is blue but the burner makes a popping sound when the gas is shut off, it may indicate that foreign material is partially blocking the orifices. In this case, check the inlet air adjustment.



A yellow or orange flame can indicate a problem with the combustion ratio, meaning the burner is not burning efficiently. This can result in higher gas costs. The issue may be caused by a dirty burner, dust particles, or a malfunctioning pressure regulator. If your grain dryer burner has a yellow flame, here are a few things you can try:

- Clean the burning ring and inspect the burner for any rust or corrosion.
- Check for gas leaks using soapy water.
- Have trained personnel from a gas company check the gas pressure regulators and LP gas vaporizers for proper operating pressures and leaks.

COMMON TOXIC GASES

As colder weather approaches, the increased use of heating systems heightens the risk of toxic gas exposure in agricultural environments, especially in poorly ventilated spaces like barns or grain storage facilities. Regular inspections and maintaining proper ventilation are crucial for preventing harmful exposure. Here are a few common toxic gases:

- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): It's a colorless and odorless gas which is difficult to detect.
- Ammonia (NH₃): A colorless gas with a strong, pungent odor that is heavier than air.
- Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S): This gas has a distinctive rotten egg odor and is highly flammable.
- Methane (CH₄): It is an odorless, lighter-than-air gas that can easily ignite if it reaches hazardous levels.
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂): This gas has a sharp, biting odor and can become visible at high concentrations.

PREPARING FOR WINTER

As winter draws near, it's essential to prepare your home or farm for freezing temperatures. Key steps include storing firewood or fuel, safeguarding water sources from freezing, and getting ready for potential snow or storms. It's also a good idea to stock up on emergency supplies like blankets, batteries, and non-perishable food in case of extended power outages caused by winter storms.

RECOMMENDED TIPS

- Have your furnace and chimney inspected and serviced annually.
- Check exhaust vents to ensure they are open and free of obstructions.
- Insulate pipes to prevent them from freezing and bursting during cold spells.
- Clean and inspect gutters to make sure melting snow drains properly through downspouts.
- Disconnect hoses, drain the water, and remove splitters or any attachments from outdoor faucets, ensuring they are fully closed and free of leaks.



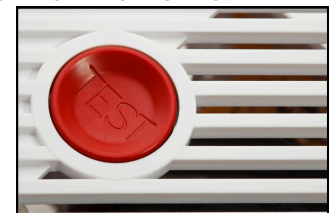
For farms, here are additional winter prep tips:

- Secure livestock shelters and provide adequate bedding.
- Stock up on feed and ensure water tank heaters are in proper working order for your animals.
- Winterize equipment, such as crop sprayers and irrigation systems, to protect them from freezing.
- Inspect the condition of extension cords and block heaters on truck and tractor engines.

CARBON DIOXIDE AND SMOKE DETECTORS

Ensuring the health and safety of your family requires having functional smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

- Make sure smoke alarms are installed on every level and inside each bedroom of the home.
- Test both carbon monoxide and smoke detectors monthly to verify they are working properly, and replace batteries if needed.
- Clear snow away from outside vents for fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces so dangerous carbon monoxide does not build up in the home.



BUILDING COLLAPSE FROM ICE AND SNOW

Heavy ice and snow accumulation can put tremendous strain on roofs, leading to potential collapse. After heavy snowfalls, safely remove excess snow from your roof, especially on flat or low-pitched roofs that are more prone to collapse. For larger buildings or barns, consider hiring professionals to assess the structural integrity and to remove snow if necessary.



Clearing snow and ice from your building roofs can bring significant benefits. Beyond property damage covered by insurance, you could face considerable uninsured losses, such as:

- Residential displacement or operational downtime.
- Additional costs for debris removal.
- Loss of irreplaceable items.
- Out-of-pocket expenses due to your policy deductible.



CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FIRE SAFETY RECALLS

www.cpsc.gov ♦ 800.638.8270

OLIVIA CIGAR SLIM LIGHTERS

Recall Due to Missing Child Safety Feature



HAZARD

The lighters do not have child-resistant mechanisms and young children could ignite the lighters, posing fire and burn hazards.

REMEDY

Consumers should immediately stop using and dispose of the recalled promotional cigar lighters.

UNITS
60,000

**More information,
click [RECALL](#)**

POLARIS RANGER XD 1500 WITH WINCHES

Recall Due to Fire Hazard

HAZARD

The winch-ground wiring can overheat while in use, posing a fire hazard and risk of serious injury to the rider or passenger.

REMEDY

Contact an authorized Polaris dealer to schedule a free repair to confirm a proper winch ground connection at the dealer's location.

UNITS
10,500



Additional information, click [RECALL](#)

GLEN DIMPLEX AMERICAS CADET APEX72 ELECTRIC HEATERS

Recall Due to Fire Hazards

HAZARD

The fan can malfunction and fail to turn on causing the unit to overheat and ignite internally, posing a fire hazard.



REMEDY
Replacement &
Installation

UNITS
12,900

Additional information, click [RECALL](#)

PLACE & TIME BATTERY-OPERATED DESK LAMPS

Recall Due to Fire Hazards

HAZARD

The desk lamp's battery compartment can overheat while using the USB charging cord, posing a fire hazard.



Sold at Jo-Ann Stores.

REMEDY **UNITS**
Refund 9,700

**More information,
click [RECALL](#)**

COLSEN FIRE PITS

Recall Due to Serious Burn Injury from Flame Jetting and Fire Spreading Hazards



HAZARD

Flame jetting is a serious event that can occur while pouring alcohol, when fire flashes back to the alcohol container and suddenly propels burning alcohol out of the container and onto people nearby.

REMEDY

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled fire pits and dispose of them. Do NOT resell or donate them.

UNITS
89,500

**Additional
information,
click [RECALL](#)**