



PONTIAC FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURES

GENERAL ADVICE

- Avoid smoking in farm buildings: the dust is highly combustible and the methane, a colourless and odorless gas present in the air, which is produced by manure, could ignite.
- Never refuel inside a building when the engine of equipment or a vehicle is running or still hot.
- Install lightning rods on the building.
- Have on hand, a sufficient number of portable ABC type fire extinguishers with a minimum 4kg (10 lb) capacity.
- Have heat detectors installed.
- Provide one or more water tank(s) to help firefighters in the event of a fire.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the office, the garage and house, where the dust and humidity within buildings will not affect the efficiency of the various devices.
- Keep the building surroundings clean and free of tall grasses, because they encourage the presence of rodents.
- Use a non-combustible product to absorb oil spilled on the ground, avoid sawdust and other combustible materials.
- Move any combustible or flammable products to at least 9 metres (30 feet) from the area where any welding is done.

STORAGE

- Never store fuel inside buildings.
- Consult the suppliers, read and understand any stickers found on products in order to know what the standards are for storing dangerous products such as nitrogen fertilizers, lime or cleaning products used for buildings and milk tanks.

- Have propane tanks installed according to the natural gas and propane Installation Code and the Code on storage and handling of propane.
- Have all pesticides well identified and stored in a separate building.
- Store hay and straw in a barn when they are completely dry in order to avoid spontaneous combustion.
- Avoid clutter in technical rooms such as the engine and electrical rooms.

GRAIN DRYERS

- Make sure that grain dryers are equipped with a device that will close the fan blowers or shutters when they become too hot.
- Clean any dust or combustible materials from the motors, blades or paddles, control panels and connection boxes on a regular basis.
- Verify the alignment of pulleys and the tension of belts.
- Do the drainage and make sure that all pipes provided for this purpose are not obstructed or blocked.
- Lubricate the motor according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Make sure that any electrical apparatus or equipment and cabling are in good condition.



DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTRICITY

Modified installations

- Verify electrical installations regularly.
- Have any electrical installation that is too old, damaged or non-compliant replaced by a master electrician. Never perform this work yourself.
- Always leave in their place the protective cover or door on the electrical panel, the junction boxes, the electrical outlets and switches.
- Never replace a fuse by another of a higher caliber. Have the problem looked at by a master electrician.
- Use the proper fasteners to attach electrical wires. Avoid using nails and other inadequate materials.
- It is prohibited to strip electrical wires, as arcing can occur.
- An electrical appliance must never be left hanging from its power cable.
- Never hang an electrical appliance with baling twine, or with a metal hook or chain. The twine can wear out and the metal is an electrical conductor.

Badly maintained installations

- Clean the electrical panel and accessories such as electrical sockets and switches on a regular basis.
- Have dust-proof electrical appliances installed in extremely dusty areas, for example where the milling of grain is done.
- Keep a clearance of 1 metre (3 feet) in front of, and on each side of an electrical panel.
- Install a protective cover or a wired mesh over light bulbs.
- Cover plastic insulators with fire-retardant materials such as dry-wall which will slow the spread of fire.
- Never cover junction boxes, switches and electrical outlets with plastic insulators, such as polyurethane.
- Use equipment fabricated for damp atmospheres in areas where the humidity levels are high such as buildings where livestock or poultry is kept.
- Ventilate these areas as often as possible.
- Avoid using lime, paint or any other product on electrical systems.
- Keep the power supply room clean. Remove any dust and spider webs that are easily ignited.
- Install any electrical cable in clear view and in a location where rodents cannot access it.

- Use Teck-type armoured cable or a PVC or metal conduit to conceal electrical cables that must be mounted on an inside wall or ceiling.
- On the outside, have weather-proof electrical outlets and milk tubes installed.
- Install a ground for metal stalls and stables.

Misused electrical apparatus or equipment

- Use a barn heater or a unit heater used for buildings and not construction heaters which are meant only for a temporary usage.
- Use a dustproof vacuum cleaner and sealed against moisture of industrial quality and developed to withstand shocks. Select one with an adequate size extension cord manufactured for exterior use if you need to use it outside.



WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

In a sealed silo

1. Call **9-1-1**.
2. Contact the supplier of the silo.
3. Never open the silo : This could cause an explosion.



In another type of silo (conventional)

1. Disconnect the electrical or gas supply.
2. Call **9-1-1**.



In a building or in the house

1. Quickly evacuate everyone present.
2. Close the doors behind you.
3. Call **9-1-1**.
4. Never return inside a burning building.

**For more information, visit the Ministry of public security Website
[http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/fire-safety/preventing-a-
fire.html](http://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/en/fire-safety/preventing-a-fire.html) or contact the**



**Pontiac Fire Department's Fire prevention officer
by dialing 819-455-2401, ext. 102**

