

LOSS CONTROL DATA GUIDE

Farm And Ranch Hazard Checklist

To aid you in your efforts to avoid costly losses due to fire and/or accidents, Great American Insurance Companies have prepared this checklist. It is designed to highlight common problems that frequently produce losses in the agricultural environment. Due to space considerations, this list cannot cover all contingencies. For additional information or guidance, contact your local Great American Insurance Company's Loss Prevention Department through your local agent.

GENERAL BUILDING SAFETY

- Are buildings free of unnecessary accumulations of trash, litter, junk and other things that could start or feed a fire, cause falls or get in your way?
- Are stairs and permanent ladders in good condition?
- Do stairs have handrails?
- Are stairs clear of objects and slippery substances?
- Have rotten or broken floor boards and defects in concrete floors been repaired?
- Are ladder openings and hay chutes protected with cages or railings?
- Are nails removed from loose boards before stacking them?
- Are passageways clear of tools, buckets, slippery substances, etc., that could cause falls?
- Are buildings adequately lighted?
- Are light fixtures in storage areas containing combustible materials protected against breakage?
- Is electrical wiring checked and verified as sound? Are repairs made promptly?
- Are portable equipment power cords visually checked before each use?
- Do major buildings have lightning protection systems? Are these systems checked annually to assure that air terminals and conductors are properly grounded?
- Are materials and supplies stored so they will not fall on someone nor collapse if a worker climbs on them, and they are not blocking passageways?
- Are doors and gates to hazardous areas (silos, manure storage, chemical storage, animal quarters, etc.) kept closed and secured to keep out children and visitors?
- Are the correct size and type fire extinguishers mounted at building entrances?
- Are there other provisions for fire fighting such as an adequate water supply and readily available ladders that can reach the roof of the highest building?

- Are "No Smoking" signs posted and enforced?

GRAIN AND SILAGE STORAGE STRUCTURES

- Are entrances to grain and silage storage areas closed to keep out children?
 - Are drivelines and working parts of filling and unloading machinery properly shielded?
 - Do grain bins have both outside and inside permanent ladders? Is a life line used when working inside?
 - Can power be locked out so that the unloading mechanism cannot be started when someone is in the bin?
 - Are sealed silos kept tight so fire is prevented?
 - Is a respirator used when handling dusty or moldy grain, and when cleaning inside a bin?
 - Are workers alerted to the dangers of silo gas and oxygen deficiency? Is a supplied-air or self-contained breathing device used when entering a closed silo or a silo pit?
 - Is the fuel supply installed according to National Fire Protection Association standards?
 - Are warnings posted at machinery and bin locations where operation could begin automatically and trap a worker unexpectedly?
 - Are workers warned to stay out of bins that could be crusted or where the grain flow could start, causing a grain drowning?
- ### SHOP
- Are electrical outlets the three-hole grounded type?
 - Are all stationary power tools properly grounded?
 - Are portable power tools either the double insulated or of the three-wire grounded types?
 - Is there ample electrical capacity so power tools can be operated without blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers?
 - Are portable power tools unplugged when not in use?
 - Are stationary tools such as grinders, saws, etc., properly shielded with shields always in place when in use?
 - Is a fire extinguisher of at least 5B:C rating readily available?

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- Is the shop floor kept clean? Are benches tidy and drawers kept shut?
- Are cutting tools (saws, axes, knives, etc.) kept sharp and stored so they cannot fall on someone? Are handles free of flaws?
- Is the welding area well ventilated? Are flammable or combustible materials kept or moved safely away when welding?
- Are flammable liquids stored in UL or FM labeled metal containers and kept away from heat sources?
- Are oily cleaning rags stored in a covered metal container?
- Is the shop well lighted with extra light for bench work?

MACHINERY STORAGE BUILDINGS

- Is the floor surface firm and level?
- Is machinery parked so there is ample walking space between units?
- Is a door or windows opened before starting or running an engine inside?

ANIMAL FACILITIES

- Are pens, gates, chutes and lot fences sturdy and well-maintained?
- Are gates and doors always closed after passage?
- Are children forbidden to play in or around barns, pens and feedlots?
- Is feeding, grinding and materials handling equipment properly shielded and all shields in place when used? Are loading troughs on augers, elevators and conveyors covered with grating?
- Are walking surfaces in work areas and passageways kept clear of manure, snow, mud and spilled grain?
- Have milking parlor steps and walkways been roughened enough to prevent slips and falls?
- Are milking parlor and milkroom floors sloped uniformly for proper drainage?
- Are outside ramps and steps protected from rain or spilled water that could freeze?
- Are vents clear and fans operative in confinement housing?
- Are brooding lamps properly supported and at least 18 inches away from combustible litter?
- Are portable heaters in good condition and placed so they can't be tipped into combustibles?
- Is caution used when entering or working around underground manure storage to avoid breathing poisonous gases?
- Are manure pits covered with sturdy grates?

- Is the manure pit or tank thoroughly ventilated before anyone enters to do maintenance work? If the facility's atmosphere cannot be made safe, is a supplied-air or self-contained breathing device used?
- Is the temperature of newly stored hay checked regularly?
- Are electric stock water heaters properly installed and grounded?
- Are permanent heating units properly installed and vented?
- Are heaters checked often for defects that could cause a fire or fill the area with carbon monoxide?
- If heating units use LP-gas or oil, are the tanks properly installed and solidly supported, and lines, valves, etc., protected to avoid damage?
- Are barn chemicals—fly sprays, disinfectants, medicants, etc.—kept in their original containers and stored out of the reach of children?

FARM MACHINERY

- Is all farm machinery operated and maintained according to instruction manual recommendations?
- Are safe operating rules known and observed by everyone?
- Are shields and guards always in place when machinery is being operated?
- Are defective or worn parts repaired or replaced as soon as possible?
- Is the power turned off before adjusting, unclogging or servicing a power-driven machine?
- Are children and nonworkers kept off and away from machinery and wagons?
- Are tractors equipped with rollover protection (either protective cabs or protective frames)? Are safety belts routinely worn?
- Are tractors and self-propelled machines equipped with 2A-10 B:C rated dry chemical fire extinguishers and first-aid kits?
- Are slow-moving vehicle emblems mounted on farm equipment that is transported on public roads?
- Is equipment lighting adequate? Does it conform to state law?
- Are protective clothing and equipment appropriate for the chemical worn by sprayer operators and loaders?
- Have sprayer operators been told to change clothes daily and to wash before eating or smoking?
- Are long rubber gloves and goggles, or gloves, goggles and face masks used by applicators and other personnel transferring or hauling anhydrous ammonia?
- Are five gallons or more of clean water carried on the ammonia applicator or tractor as well as the nurse tank?

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Is the "first-aid" water easily reached and dispensed? Have employees been trained on how to flush the eyes and affected skin areas in case of a mishap?

Are coupling and hose repairs made so that the hose will hold the maximum load on the hydraulic system?

Are movable components blocked before repair or adjustment?

FIELDS AND WOOD LOTS

Are open drainage and irrigation ditches fenced?

Is there a buffer zone (unplanted or grassed) along with ditches so tractors have ample turning and running room?

Are field bridges strong enough to support heavy equipment and loaded trucks or wagons? Do they have side rails?

Are field roadway side slopes "gentle" enough so tractors or other vehicles won't overturn?

Are washouts repaired promptly to prevent vehicles from getting stuck?

Are stilling pools and tailwater ponds fenced and posted to discourage swimming?

Are terraces designed with minimum practical sideslopes to reduce overturning hazards? Have machinery operators been warned about overturning hazards on terraces?

Are pond shorelines graded gradually into the water?

Are tractor tippers such as stumps and rocks removed from fields? Are holes filled or flagged? Are large immovable obstacles flagged?

Are equipment and supplies never left in a field or area with tall growth where they cannot be readily seen? Is equipment parked out of the way?

Do farm equipment operators stay off steep slopes?

Are they instructed to cross hillsides carefully at reduced speed and watch for gullies or obstacles that could cause an upset?

Are low tree branches trimmed where machinery is driven?

LANES AND DRIVES

Are drives serving the farmstead firm and free of deep ruts or bumps?

Have trees been trimmed or removed from alongside driveways and lanes to avoid interference when machinery is moved?

Are all workers aware of overhead power lines when driving or moving tall equipment, or handling or carrying long sections of pipe, metal ladders, etc.?

Are sight distances at least 700 feet (800 feet on a busy highway) in both directions from the driver's seat of a car or truck and ten feet from near edge of roadway?

Are corners kept clear and tall crops planted far enough back from the road at intersections and driveways to avoid blocking vision?

Are gates wide enough so machinery and trucks can enter and exit easily?

Are field entrance gates set back far enough so equipment is completely off the road when stooping to open or close them?

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