

# Equip farm buildings with fire extinguisher

WILMINGTON, Del. — Being ready to stamp out a fire at the time it starts is the best protection a farm family can employ to prevent loss. A few dollars spent now for fire extinguishers can save

an expensive combine, rescue the farm shop, even save the family home.

More and more farm families are equipping the farm and home with this kind of protection -

supplemented with smoke detectors to alert family members early if a fire does occur. In a recent Du Pont Agrichemicals study of 1,216 farm operators, almost 80 percent of all farm homes were equipped with smoke detectors.

The Du Pont study showed that while smoke detectors for the home are widely employed, fewer homes were equipped with fire extinguishers. Some 69.7 percent,

or 7 of every 10 had a fire extinguisher in the home. Yet barns on these farms, equally vulnerable to fire, were not nearly as well protected. Only 45 percent had fire extinguishers handy. The big cost of machinery, and the need to protect it, was evident in the study. Some 79.6 percent, almost 8 of every 10, of combines carried a fire extinguisher.

According to Jim Borel, product specialist for Du Pont, sponsor of the new farm safety study, some reluctance to equip the farm with farm safety equipment stems from confusion on the kinds of equipment to install. His advice is to talk with a dealer or county agent. The big thing, Borel believes, is to get a fire safety plan underway before a tragedy can threaten the family or employees, or even the farm business.

Every farm and farm home needs three types of extinguishers as a beginning, Borel says. For ordinary combustibles such as wood and paper, a Class A extinguisher is needed. At least one should be readily available in every home and at the entry of every farm building. For flammable liquids such as oil, gas and chemicals, a Class B extinguisher is used. This is the type used on combines, in the farm shop, and any building area where flammable liquids are used. The third fire threat which is common on the farm is the electrical fire. For this, the Class C unit is employed. This type needs to be available in the farm kitchen, in the shop, and other areas where electrical

equipment is used, such as feed mixing and grinding.

Borel says the correct extinguisher is important because water won't control either flammable liquids or electrical fires. He suggests that multi-purpose extinguishers may be the best bet for many farm locations. Extinguishers rated for A, B and C class fires are available as a single unit and are often used in farm homes and farm buildings.

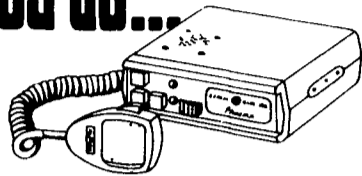
Fertilizers and chemicals are minor fire hazards, but in event of a fire, techniques in handling become important. Ammonium nitrate and anhydrous ammonia are more hazardous than most fertilizers. A water spray will control both.

Also, vapors need be avoided by using a self-contained breathing apparatus or working upwind. Best bet is help from a fire department.

In the case of anhydrous ammonia, both water and dry chemicals (Class C unit or CO<sub>2</sub>) will control the fire. The fire needs to be ventilated and the vessel kept cool with a water spray. Body contact can be serious. First aid is washing with water continuously for 15 minutes.

Should fire occur in a pesticide storage area, fire department help is the choice. Otherwise, work upwind to avoid any toxic fumes. If runoff water from fighting the fire is a problem, the area may need to be diked to control contamination. Even though such a fire is rare, its possibility presents a good case for maintaining crop protection chemicals in a separate, locked storage building, Borel says.

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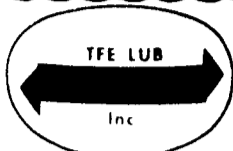
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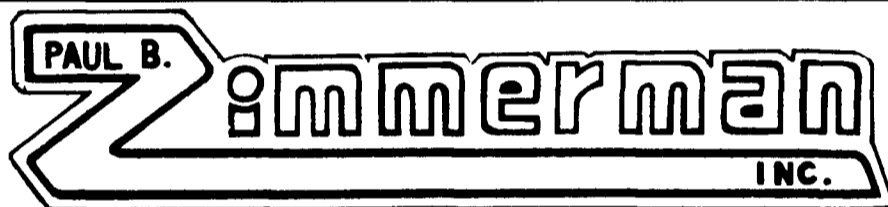
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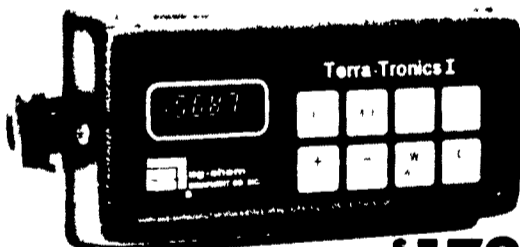
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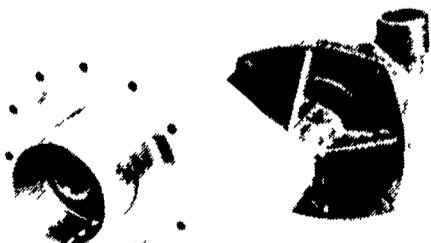
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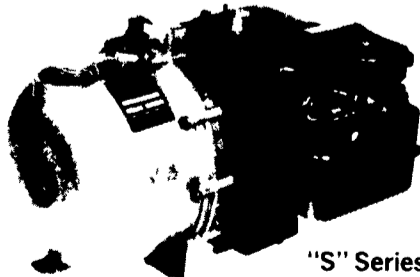


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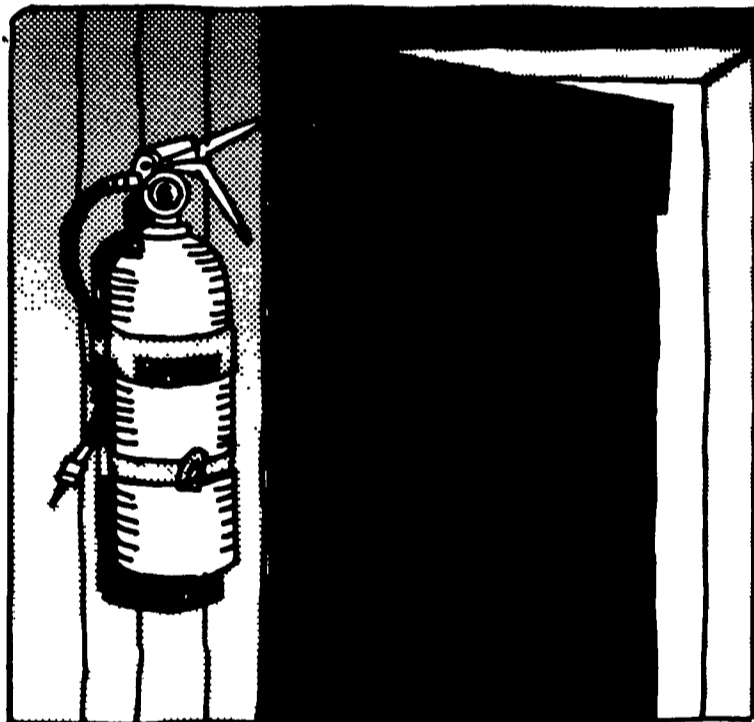
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## Loan campaign launched

CORNING, IA. — National Farmers Organization (NFO) has launched a campaign encouraging members of Congress to make the full \$600 million FmHA emergency loan funds available to farmers in direct loans.

Thursday, March 22, the U.S. Senate voted to require FmHA to release an additional \$250 million for direct emergency loans to farmers for a total of \$310 million channeled through the Economic Emergency Disaster Fund. Congress earlier allocated \$600 million for that purpose but the agency, in limited compliance, decided to make \$50 million available in direct loans and earmark the balance for guaranteed bank loans.

"That procedure is not serving the needs of farmers," says DeVon Woodland, NFO president. "In changing the Economic Emergency Loan program from

an insured to a guaranteed loan program, it became a \$540 million bailout for the banks.

"The Senate took a major step forward in aid to agriculture with their vote," Woodland said, "but we are urging them and members of the House to make the full \$600 million available in direct loans."

