

# Farm Risk Management -

## Property Loss Prevention

There is nothing quite as difficult as losing a home or building to a fire. Practical steps can go a long way in preventing property losses. More than half of all building fires every year are caused by electricity and heating devices like stoves and space heaters.



### Planning

- ✓ Assess your buildings for potential fire hazards. Where is a fire most likely to start?
- ✓ Evaluate electrical and heat sources closely. What other hazards exist?

### Building Condition

- ✓ Inspect roof drains and gutters. Make sure they are clear before winter.
- ✓ Monitor roof conditions of flat or shallow sloped roofs, particularly during heavy snow periods. Always use safe methods to remove snow.
- ✓ Use noncombustible and fire-resistant building materials when possible.
- ✓ Establish a preventive maintenance program for equipment, building utilities, and processing equipment that meets the manufacturer's specifications.

### Electrical Systems

- ✓ Keep electrical and heating systems up to current codes.
- ✓ Use electrical cords properly; don't overload outlets.
- ✓ Extension cords are not meant to be permanently plugged in.
- ✓ Keep all combustible material at least 3 feet from electrical panels.
- ✓ Check your electric system on a regular basis and make sure it is maintained.

### Heaters and Wood Stoves

- ✓ Keep all combustible material at least 3 feet from heaters and stoves.
- ✓ Develop a maintenance program to keep heating units clean and maintained.
- ✓ Follow manufacturer specifications for all wood stove or heater installation.

Check out our [Safety Tips page](#) for more safety information.

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