

COMMUNIQUÉ

du commissaire des incendies

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FARM FIRE SAFETY

In recent years, fires in farm buildings in Ontario have become a concern. In 2014, 150 fires in barns housing animals or containing equipment and produce resulted in losses of more than \$28 million.

In light of the barn fires that occurred in Ontario over the past few weeks, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) reminds fire departments that they can play an important role in preventing such losses by actively promoting fire safety on farms and agricultural business properties in their community.

Several resources about farm fire safety were developed over the years to assist fire departments with their fire prevention efforts and public fire safety education activities. They include the following:

- *Farms and Rural Properties Have Unique Fire Risks*, an information card developed in 2012 by the then Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM)
The card is intended for owners and operators of farm and agricultural properties and can be distributed strategically throughout farming communities. It provides farm fire safety tips and can help keep fire safety front of mind. Fire departments can obtain copies of the card by sending a completed [OFMEM public education materials order form](#) to the OFMEM.
- *Reducing the Risk of Fire on Your Farm*, a free 44-page document published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
This publication covers the following topics: leading causes of farm building fires, preventative maintenance to reduce risks, prevention of fire spread, and the reduction of the impact of fire. It also provides a checklist to assess fire risks in farm buildings.
- *Fire Prevention on the Farm*, a 3-page document published by the OFMEM
This document outlines 11 simple fire prevention measures to help protect farm buildings and livestock. To obtain this publication (Word document), send a request to the OFMEM by using the [feedback form](#) on its Web site.

- *Farm Fire Safety Checklist*, a 6-page document published by the OFMEM
This document was designed to assist in assessing fire risks in buildings on farms and other agricultural properties, and to provide a list of fire safety precautions and fire prevention measures. To obtain this publication (Word document), send a request to the OFMEM by using the [feedback form](#) on its Web site.
- *Guideline for Fire Safety in Facilities Housing Racehorses at Racetracks*, published in 1993 by the then OFM
Although Fire Code references in the document may have changed since its publication, the principles and recommendations it contains continue to be applicable today. To obtain this publication, send a request to the OFMEM by using the [feedback form](#) on its Web site. Enquiries regarding Fire Code references in the guideline can be sent to FireSafetyStandards@ontario.ca.