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3-1-1943

Fire Fighting Equipment for the Farm and Home

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Jones, S. W., "Fire Fighting Equipment for the Farm and Home" (1943). *SDSU Extension Leaflets*. 73.
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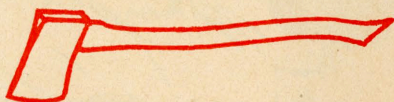
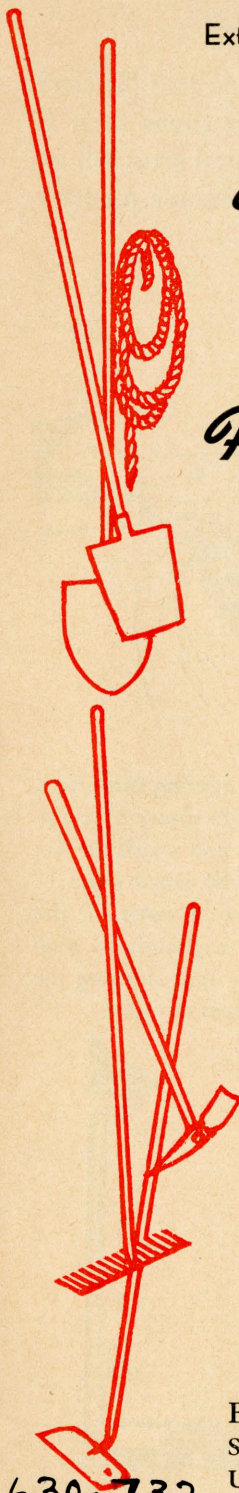


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Ext. Leaflet 75

March 1943

Fire Fighting Equipment for the Farm and Home



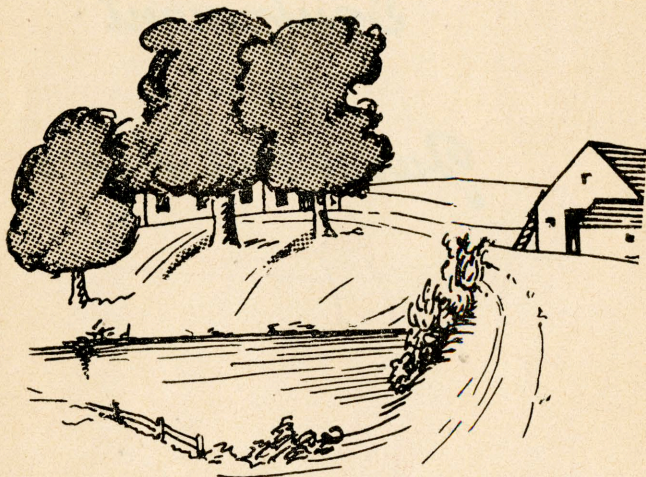
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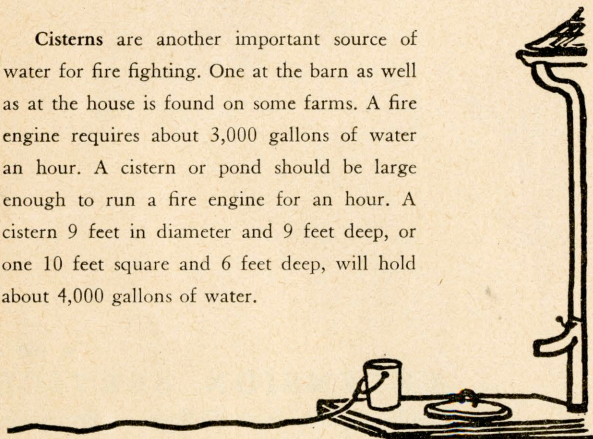
Fire Danger Always Present

Too many of us have the attitude that "it can't happen here" when thinking of disastrous fires. It CAN and DOES happen. Fires in rural areas kill an average of 10 people every day, besides the property destroyed.

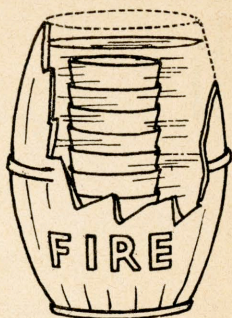


Water is the most important need in fighting farm fires. Trained fire fighters have often arrived with plenty of equipment at a farm fire only to have to stand and watch the fire burn out because of a lack of water. **The small pond or dammed-up creek is important as a source of water for fire fighting** as well as for stock water. A neighborhood map should be made for the local fire fighting unit showing the location of all ponds, dams and other sources of water.

Cisterns are another important source of water for fire fighting. One at the barn as well as at the house is found on some farms. A fire engine requires about 3,000 gallons of water an hour. A cistern or pond should be large enough to run a fire engine for an hour. A cistern 9 feet in diameter and 9 feet deep, or one 10 feet square and 6 feet deep, will hold about 4,000 gallons of water.



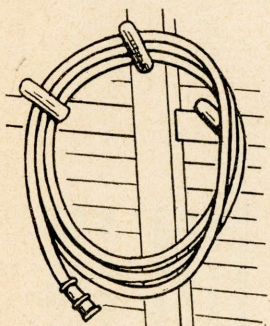
An idea borrowed from ship board is that of having several buckets nested together **inside a barrel of water**. When fire breaks out, everyone who grabs a bucket from this barrel will find it full of water—if the barrel has been kept filled. Locate one of these barrels **outside** the barn and other important buildings, keep them filled with **water**, and label them, “**For Fire Only.**”



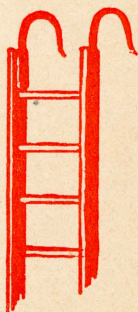
Water under pressure is found on many farms today. This is a great boon to fire fighting. The State Fire Marshall of South Dakota strongly urges that wherever possible, a fire-hose fitting should be attached to farm water hydrants and even to well pumps, especially if the hydrant or pump is outside. Then a fire truck hose can be instantly attached.



Ordinary garden hose will help greatly in combating small fires, but too often the hose is too short to reach the fire. The hose should be kept in good condition by keeping it hung up out of the weather when not in use. It should be drained before being hung up. It's a good idea to make the fire tool box big enough to accommodate the garden hose.

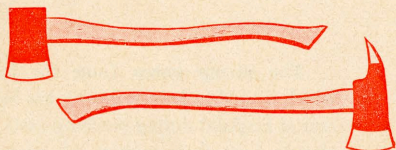
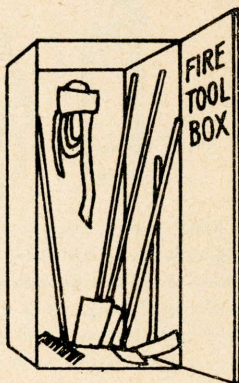


Every farm should have at least one **ladder** that will reach the roof of the tallest building on the farm. Hooks on top of the ladder are handy to secure it to an eave trough or to the ridge of a building. Cleats nailed on the roof provide ready access to many roof fires, especially if the ladder will not reach the peak of the roof.



Fire Fighting Tools Needed

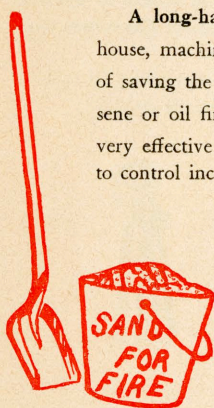
The fire tool box idea is from a practice of the United States Forest Service. If every farm cannot have a fire tool box, it is a good idea to have one in every neighborhood located in a strategic place in charge of a farmer who is trained in fire fighting. Tools and box should be painted red and the box labelled, "Fire Tool Box—For Fires Only." The box may be locked with a seal that is easily opened in case of a fire but which discourages "borrowing." Tools may be donated by the neighbors, if it is a neighborhood tool box, and should include several long-handled shovels, spades, rakes, axes, picks, a coil of strong rope, sacks, chains, mats, pails, pumps, hand extinguishers, etc.



Flat Head Axe (upper): Nearly every farm has this type of axe which is invaluable in fighting fires. It can be used for a variety of purposes from cutting down shrubs and trees in a forest fire to forcing open doors and windows.

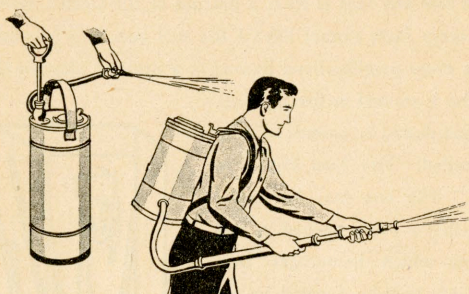
Pick Head Axe (lower): This type of axe is a many-purpose tool that will quickly force an entry through a wall or door to get at a fire besides the other conventional uses of an axe.

A long-handled shovel and a pail of sand located in the house, machine shop and other buildings may be the means of saving the building. Sand thrown on small gasoline, kerosene or oil fires, or on fires involving an electrical hazard is very effective in smothering out such fires. Sand is also used to control incendiary bombs.

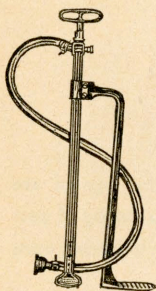


The Time to Stop a Fire Is Before It Starts

Small Spray Equipment Prevents Little Fires From Becoming Big Fires



Spray pumps operated by hand are more effective than buckets in dashing water on fires, where the water supply and pump can be moved quickly to the fire. **Combination tank and pump** such as the "knapsack" or cylindrical two or three gallon pressure pump and tank are especially useful in fire fighting. A 30-gallon drum with pump attached and mounted on a wheelbarrow or in a trailer makes a highly desirable type. **Orchard sprayers**, where available, are "natural fire wagons." **Have the valves and leathers of all such pumps examined frequently and ready for use.**

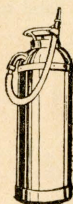


The stirrup pump (note the foot "stirrup" which is used to hold it down) has been the salvation of England during bombing raids. Many farms already have these pumps. All pumps should be thoroughly cleaned after being used for spraying whitewash, insecticides, or anything other than water.

The three most common types of **hand fire extinguishers** are the **foam** (left below), **vaporizing liquid or carbon tetrachloride** (center) and **carbon dioxide and dry compound** (right).

The **foam type** is useful in controlling all types of fires, if no electrical hazard is present, but is a water-solution unit and subject to freezing. Do not use this type of extinguisher in a confined space! The **carbon tetrachloride type** is handy for cars, trucks and tractors.

The **carbon dioxide extinguisher** is useful in controlling all types of fires, and especially those where electrical equipment is involved.



**ORGANIZE
TO FIGHT
FIRES**



For suggestions on organizing your community to prevent and fight fires, which we cannot afford in war-time, see or write your County Extension Agent for Extension Mimeographed Circular 303. It also contains suggestions on fighting prairie fires.

This leaflet on Fire Fighting Equipment for the Farm and Home is sent you by your County Extension Agent of the South Dakota Agricultural Extension Service.

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