

There is more at stake than the barn in a fire

Fires on farms and other agricultural business properties can bring significant emotional and economic damage to a farming community.

These damages can take the form of large dollar losses, loss of livestock, and fire exposure to other buildings and houses.

Fortunately, many of these fires can be prevented if a few simple steps are taken and fire safe practices are adopted. The Town of Caledon is urging farmers to make the switch to fire safety by following these few simple rules:

- ? Do not allow smoking in or around the barns.
- ? Ensure hay and straw are properly dried before storing in the barn.
- ? Keep dust and cobwebs to a minimum.
- ? Situate manure piles at least 10 meters away from the barn.
- ? Regularly check appliances and electrical equipment to ensure they are in good condition.
- ? Repair/replace any frayed or damaged wiring.
- ? Never refuel engines inside a building.
- ? Use extension cords for temporary wiring only.

While it is impossible to eliminate the risk of fire, farmers can introduce measures to reduce the threat. An information sheet, entitled Fire Prevention on the Farm, and a checklist, entitled Farm Fire Safety, can be found at

www.caledon.ca/en/live/fire-prevention.asp

These tools describe steps that should be taken by farmers, family members and farm employees to reduce the risk of fire on farm properties.