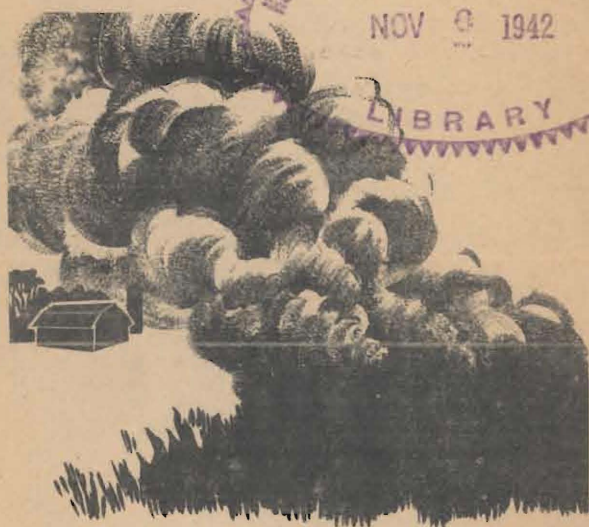


# PREVENT FIRE



**SAVE THE GRASS  
PROTECT THE SOIL**

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# PRAIRIE FIRES ARE DESTRUCTIVE

Fire was one of the greatest hazards North Dakota pioneers had to face. Now more than a half century after settlement, FIRE still is a serious hazard.

Prairie fires, either directly or indirectly, do the following---

- (1) Destroy fall and winter live-stock feed supplies, including both pasture and stacks.
- (2) Destroy fences, feed lots, machinery and farm buildings.
- (3) Destroy fields of mature grain, both in the field and in the storage bin.
- (4) Destroy human and animal life.
- (5) Invite serious water and wind erosion by destroying ground cover.
- (6) Destroy fertility and moisture holding humus of the soil.
- (7) Destroy or seriously damage grass and trees.
- (8) Destroy the better varieties grass seed, allowing the earlier maturing weed seed to become embedded in the soil, safe from fires, to eventually "take the pasture."
- (9) Destroy the natural "bed" for livestock.
- (10) Destroy natural shelter and home of wildlife, both birds and animals.
- (11) Destroy recreation and scenic beauty areas.

**Fire in these times is the enemies'  
best ally  
Let's defeat it --- by always  
-BEING CAREFUL WITH FIRE**

# GUARD AGAINST PRAIRIE FIRES

## HOW TO PREVENT FIRES

- (1) Talk fire prevention and safety to your neighbors and friends at every opportunity. Bring up the topic of fire prevention for discussion at your meetings.
- (2) Be careful with fire in all its forms.
- (3) Eliminate all fire hazards insofar as practical.

- 1. BREAK YOUR MATCH IN TWO BEFORE THROWING IT AWAY.**
- 2. MASH OUT THE GLOW OF YOUR PIPE OR CIGARETTE.**
- 3. PUT MATCH AND CIGARETTE STUBS IN ASH TRAY OR SUITABLE CONTAINER.**

Become "fire" conscious in your daily actions. REMEMBER: "A fire prevented is a battle won." Let's win some battles of prevention on the home front!

## WHAT IS A FIRE HAZARD

All inflammable material in the home, barn, grain field, prairie or forest is a fire hazard.

Some of our most common prairie fire hazards:

- (1) Heavy weed growth along public roads and railroads.
- (2) Straw, brush, or trash burning in unprotected areas or on hazardous fire days. A hazardous fire day can be described as any hot, dry and windy day.
- (3) Carelessness with matches or "smokes."

(4) Defective exhausts on cars, trucks, or tractors.

(5) Improperly installed or defective fire arrestors on locomotives.

## HOW TO REDUCE PRAIRIE FIRE HAZARDS

- (1) Plow fire breaks a short distance from and parallel to roads, highways and railroads in range country or pasture land.
- (2) Burn old straw or hay stacks only after a suitable fire break has been plowed around them. Then burn them only when the air is cool and moist, as after a rain or snow, and preferably in the evenings. Calm days should be selected.
- (3) Burn-out dangerous and unsightly accumulations of weeds and other trash, using care to prevent fires getting out of control, or else haul trash away to a safe burning spot.
- (4) As soon as grain is removed from a field, plow breaks around the edge to prevent outside fires from coming into the field, and to prevent a stubble fire on your field from spreading to other fields or to those of neighbors.
- (5) On big stretches of open range, it is desirable to sub-divide these areas with plowed fire breaks.
- (6) Make sure that the tractor, truck, or car has adequate protection against spark throwing.
- (7) Dead and down timber, if still sound, can be salvaged for fuel or other farm uses.
- (8) Be careful with fire and ask others to do likewise.

**SAVE Feed, Property, Wildlife**

# BE READY TO CONTROL FIRES

## CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

### WHAT YOU CAN DO IN CASE OF A PRAIRIE FIRE

When a fire first starts, it is a relatively easy task to extinguish it. A few shovels of dirt properly applied, or a few swats with a wet canvas or burlap swatter, is all that is needed. The longer a fire is allowed to burn unhampered, the more difficult it is to extinguish. Because of this factor, certain methods of fire fighting are suggested.

- (1) Get to the fire as soon as possible after it starts, and put it out.
- (2) If the fire is too large for you to put out alone, call your neighbors to help you. If you are close to a town, ask for the assistance of the local fire department.
- (3) Once a fire is stopped and apparently put out, don't just leave it. A gust of wind may fan up some unnoticed embers into flames and re-ignite your fire. The safe thing to do is plow a furrow or two around the burned area just as close as possible to it. Throwing the furrow into the burned area to make certain that no live embers are accidentally thrown into the unburned portion to start another fire is recommended.

One principal of fire behavior to remember is that a fire will burn most briskly during the warmest, driest, part of the day. This usually is a period of several hours shortly after noon. Fires fought at this time of the day will require considerably more effort to extinguish than at any other time.

## SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION

For effective fire-fighting each community should have a fire control organization, with trained workers ready to act when fires break out. Here is a suggested fire organization plan that could be put into operation at a community fire meeting.

- (1) Choose a fire chief or leader. Select an assistant to act as chief or leader in the absence of the fire chief.
- (2) Decide on the boundaries in which work will be done.
- (3) Decide on the necessary size and distribution of fire crews.
- (4) Devise a system of fire detection, if this system is necessary.
- (5) Locate fire tool storage areas which would be readily accessible in case of fire. Also decide just what tools would be necessary at these locations.
- (6) Plan out a communication set-up which would offer quick and efficient service in spreading a fire alarm. The local telephone company undoubtedly can offer many suggestions.
- (7) Decide on the amount of fire-fighting training each crew member should have.

### **TWO SOUND FIRE CONTROL RULES ARE:**

- 1. BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE AT ALL TIMES.**
- 2. ORGANIZE INTO FIRE-FIGHTING UNITS SO THAT YOUR ACTIONS CAN BE POSITIVE AND COORDINATED FOR MAXIMUM RESULTS.**

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## **ORGANIZE FIRE FIGHTING GROUPS**