

# 4-H SAFETY and FIRE Manual



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# 4-H SAFETY and FIRE PROJECT

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## **The Meaning of Safety**

Safety means to be free from danger or harm.

Your home and community should protect you from all common dangers but you must help. This business of safety is everyone's problem. You, as a 4-H safety worker, have a good chance to put all four of your H's to work through accident and fire prevention. Safety will require the training and use of your head, heart, hands and health. You must then practice this training in your home and community.

## **Purpose**

1. To learn what accidents happen most often in your homes and on your farms and in everyday living.
2. To learn causes of accidents and some of the means of preventing them.
3. To learn, practice and teach safety in your 4-H work.
4. To use and care for household and other equipment correctly and carefully.
5. To find and correct anything about your home or farm that is likely to cause fires, accidents, or injuries.
6. To learn, practice and teach safe methods in your daily work and activities.
7. To teach and practice safety by obeying all traffic rules.
8. Reduce loss of property from fire.
9. Practice erosion control by prevention of land fires.
10. By fire prevention reduce the loss of life, time and suffering of people.
11. To use and care for machinery, tools and equipment correctly and carefully.

\*The original manuscript was prepared by Miss Venie Ann McDuffie.



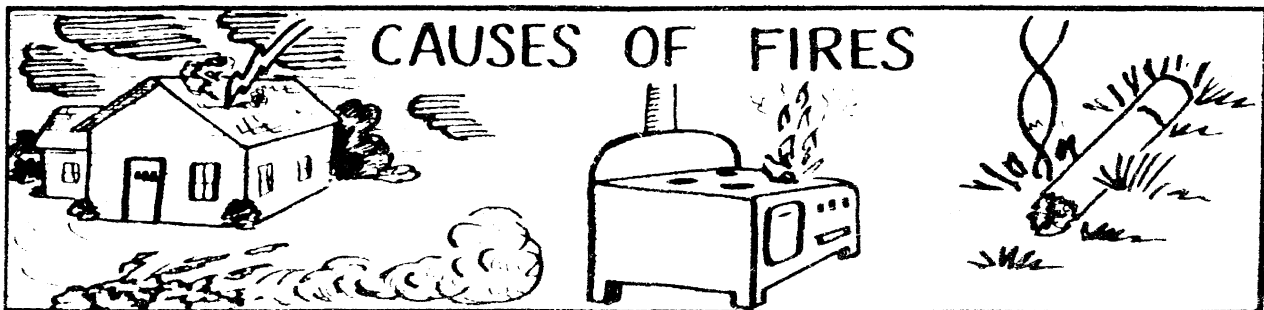
12. To help organize group cooperation in fire prevention and fire fighting, first aid and other safety measures.
13. To serve your community by helping to prevent accidents and injury to people and animals and damage to property.

### What You Are to Do in the 4-H Safety Project

1. Check your home, farm, or school (or all three) by the 4-H Safety Check Sheet to find anything that may cause property damage or accidents.
2. Do ten things that will make your home, farm or community a safer place in which to live.
3. Write a story of not less than 100 words or not more than 300 words on Safety, or give a timely topic on Safety, or give a 4-H demonstration on Safety.
4. Make an Annual Report.
5. See that a well equipped first-aid kit is provided in your home.

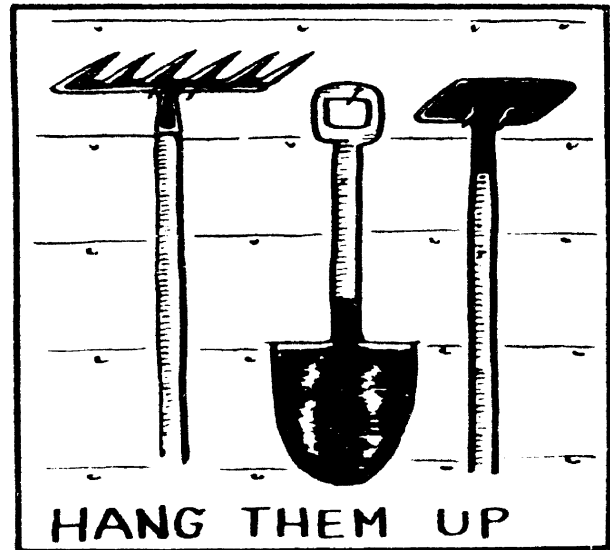
### What to Do in the 4-H Fire Project

1. Check your home, farm or school or all three by the 4-H Fire Check Sheet.
2. Do ten things to make your home, farm or community safer from fire.
3. Write a story of not less than 100 or more than 300 words on Fire Prevention or related subjects, or give orally or in written form a timely topic on fire, or give a demonstration on how to prevent or fight fires.
4. Make an Annual Report.
5. Know how to report a fire or call for help when needed.



## Remember these Things about Safety

1. Nearly all accidents can be prevented.
2. You must know what causes accidents so you can avoid them.
3. You must learn what causes people to have accidents.
4. Get rid of the things or correct conditions that cause accidents.
5. Safety is a job for your community as well as for you.
6. The right way of doing anything is usually the safe way.
7. Become safe auto drivers.
8. Handle fire arms safely.



## Remember these Things about Fire

1. In Oklahoma 99% of all fires are caused by people, so they can be avoided. (1% are caused by lightning.)
2. 157 people burned to death in the state in 1948.
3. In addition to deaths 42 people were injured by having their clothing catch on fire in 1948 in the state.
4. Fire and burns injured 269 people (not fatally) in Oklahoma in 1948.
5. Learn to handle matches and fire carefully. Americans light 850,000,000 matches each day.
6. Learn conditions that might cause fires.
7. Get rid of things that might cause fires.
8. If you smoke handle matches and lighted tobacco carefully. Teach others by example.



## Do You Know the Chief Causes of Fire in Oklahoma

1. Lightning causes 1% of the fires.
2. People cause 99% of them.

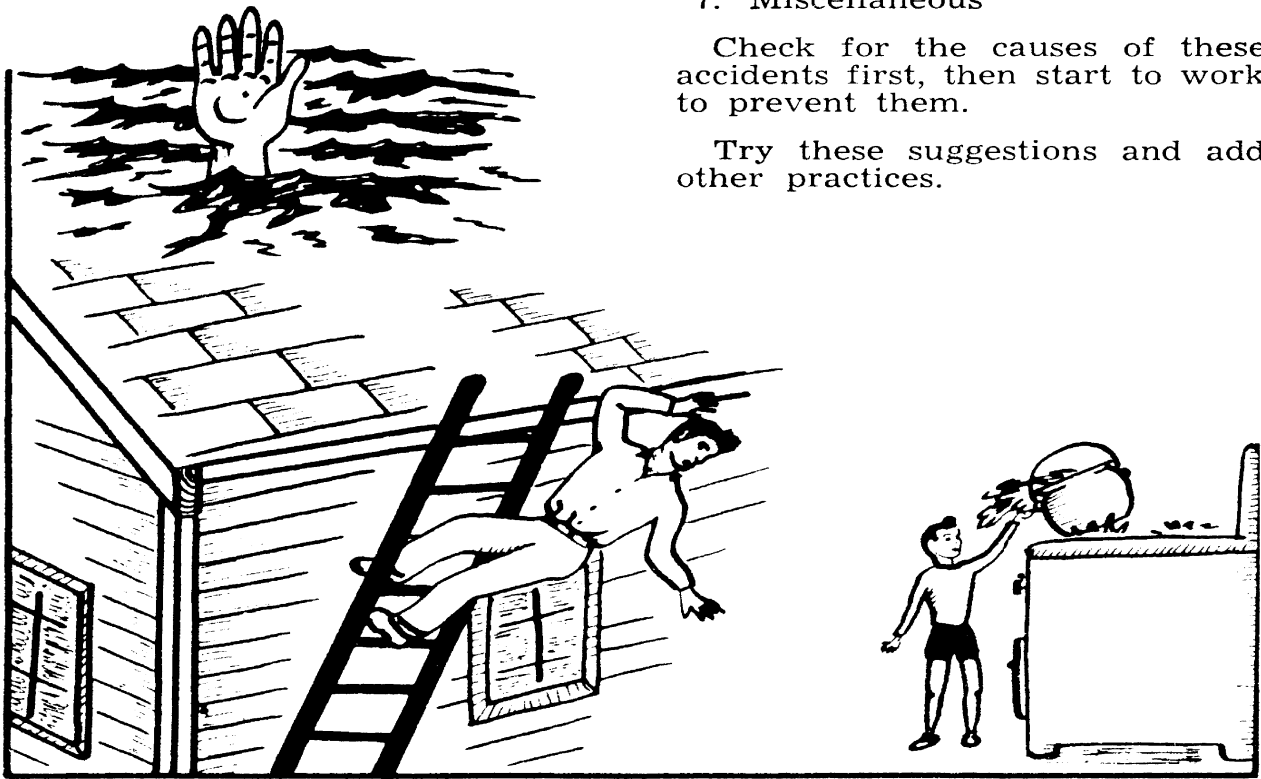
## Do You Know the Chief Causes of Accidents in Oklahoma

They are listed below in order of the deaths they cause.

1. Falls
2. Burns, scalds, conflagrations
3. Firearms
4. Poisoning
5. Poison gas
6. Drownings
7. Miscellaneous

Check for the causes of these accidents first, then start to work to prevent them.

Try these suggestions and add other practices.

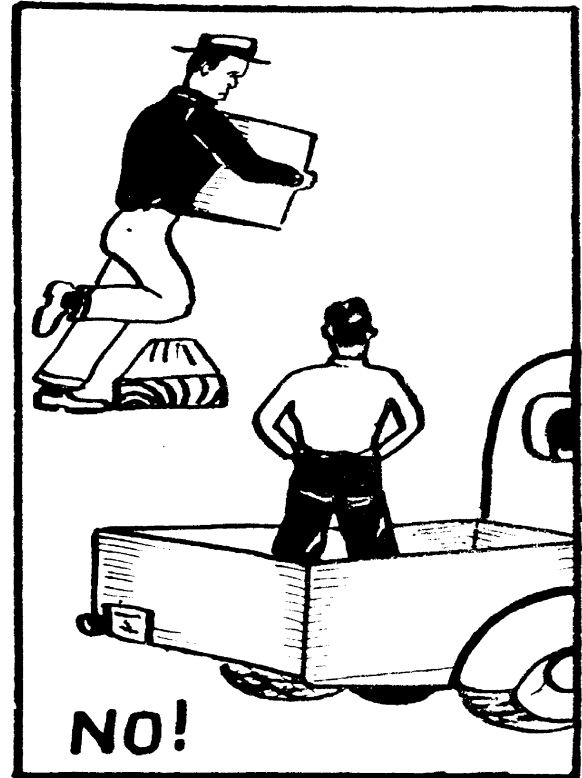


### Falls

Falls occur in every home. Do away with those in yours.

1. Use a sturdy step ladder or step stool with wide treads for reaching overhead storage, or high places.
2. Provide a stepladder on a firm foundation and see that the spreader is locked in position before climbing on it.
3. Provide a stepladder or stool high enough so you can stand at least two steps from the top while reaching.
4. Inspect the ladder regularly and keep it in good repair.

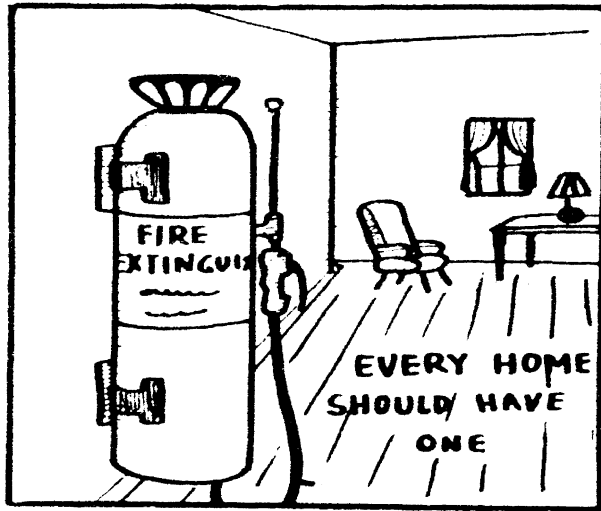
5. Do not carry a load so large or in such a position that you cannot see over it.
6. Keep your room in order and traffic ways clear.
7. Keep your own books, shoes, and playthings off the steps and stairways and see that others do so.
8. Paint the top and bottom steps of the basement staircase white so they can be seen easily.
9. Keep your yard at home and school free from holes, equipment, tools, and playthings that could cause a person to stumble.
10. Keep all steps and floor boards in good repair.
11. Avoid all pranks such as tripping, or pulling a chair out from under another person. The intended fun sometimes causes the other person to be hurt badly.
12. If you must climb, learn good methods and be cautious.
13. Keep steps and side walks clear of ice.
14. See that lamp and electrical equipment cords are never stretched across traffic ways.
15. Keep your shoe strings in good condition and tied to prevent tripping on them.
16. Learn and obey the rules of every game.
17. Outside climbing should be done with strong ladders carefully placed.
18. In riding in trucks, wagons or other implements never stand without holding a strong support.
19. Wear shoes adapted to the job at hand, so you do not slip or stumble.



### **Burns, Scalds, and Fires**

Burns are painful accidents. See if you can help prevent them.

1. A fire extinguisher in a handy place is a good thing for every home. All adults and older boys and girls should learn how to use it correctly.
2. Be careful not to fill cooking utensils so that they will boil over.
3. Provide hot-pan holders large and thick enough to protect your hands while handling hot utensils.
4. Raise the lid of a steaming kettle from the back side first to keep the steam out of your face.



5. Open a gas oven door before getting your match. Light the match and hold near the burner before turning on the gas. Do not stand in front of the oven door or have your face near it while lighting the oven.
6. Use pressure cookers and sauce pans strictly according to the manufacturers' instructions.
7. Do not attempt to fill a lighted kerosene lamp.
8. Do not allow papers and rubbish to accumulate in the basement or around your place or school.
9. Always turn electrical equipment, especially the iron, off before leaving it.
10. Fireproof your ironing board cover. (See instructions in U. S. D. A. Bulletin No. 1786)
11. Be very cautious with the use of matches. Strike them away from you and never toss one into a wastebasket.
12. Never use kerosene to rekindle a fire, or pour it on a flame or coals.
13. Be cautious around bonfires. Younger boys and girls should never attempt to add wood or fuel to one. See that all bonfires are completely out before leaving them.
14. Use chemical sets cautiously and according to instructions.
15. If your clothing should catch on fire, never run. Wrap up in a blanket, heavy coat, or other covering. If nothing is available, lie down and roll.
16. Discourage the use of fireworks. There are other things as interesting and less dangerous.
17. Treat a burn as soon as it happens.
18. Always break a match before throwing it away.
19. Check outbuildings for fire hazards and remedy the one found.
20. Build fire guards around the fields likely to burn.
21. Join local volunteer fire organization.

## Firearms

Hunting is a great sport, but may be a deadly one.

Small firearms found in the home include shotguns, rifles, pistols, revolvers, submachine guns and machine guns. Some of these are war souvenirs.

1. Do not become careless while loading, unloading, cleaning or otherwise handling a gun.
2. Make souvenirs harmless by removing the firing pin.

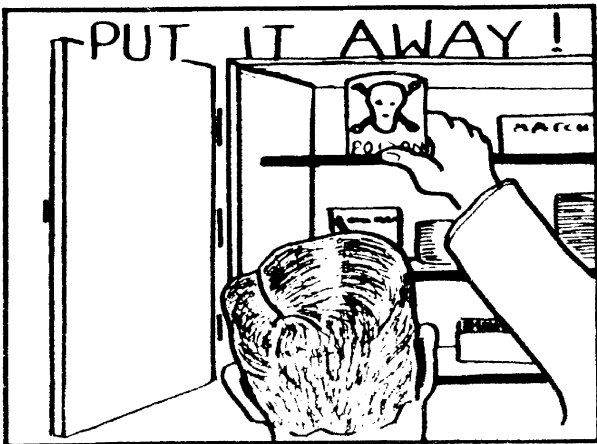


3. Know, practice, and teach the National Safety Council's "Ten Commandments of Gun Safety."
  - (a) Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is the cardinal rule of gun safety.
  - (b) Carry only empty guns, either taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp or home.
  - (c) Always be sure that the barrel and action are free of obstructions.
  - (d) Always carry your gun so you can control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.
  - (e) Be sure of your target before you pull on the trigger.
  - (f) Never point a gun at anything you don't want to shoot.
  - (g) Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it first.
  - (h) Never climb a tree or fence with a loaded gun.
  - (i) Never shoot at a hard flat surface or the surface of water.
  - (j) Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.

### Poisonings

Poisonings always take their annual toll of lives. Improper storage of poisons is the chief reason why they cause accidents.

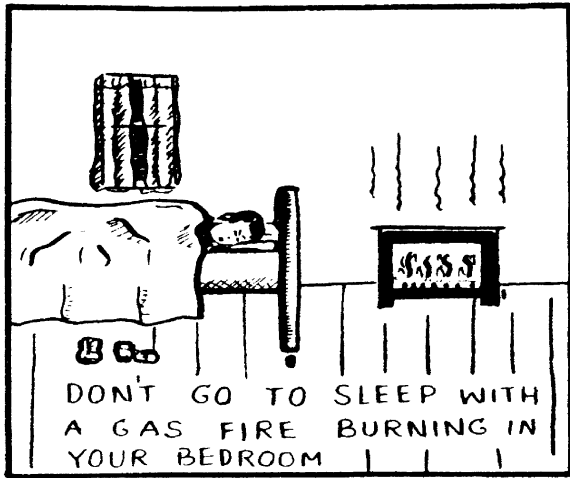
1. Talk with your parents about a safe storage place for poisons if any are kept about your house or home premises.
2. Never drink from discarded bottles of any kind.
3. Never put questionable materials in your mouth.
4. Learn to identify poisonous plants and stay away from them.
5. Never use rouge or lipstick on sore lips or cheeks.
6. Destroy any poisonous materials like rat or insect poisons found while checking your home and school or school grounds.
7. When you must handle poisons read and obey all instructions on the package.
8. Build a special cabinet for poisons. Keep it locked.
9. Many poisons must be used. Learn their danger. Practice caution and teach others by example.



### Poisonous Gas

The wide use of natural and bottled gas in Oklahoma should be a reminder to use it with care.

1. Ask your parents to check all gas connections and appliances to see that there are no leaks.
2. Never go to sleep at night in a room with a gas stove burning.
3. Talk with your teachers about checking gas heaters, furnaces and connections at school.

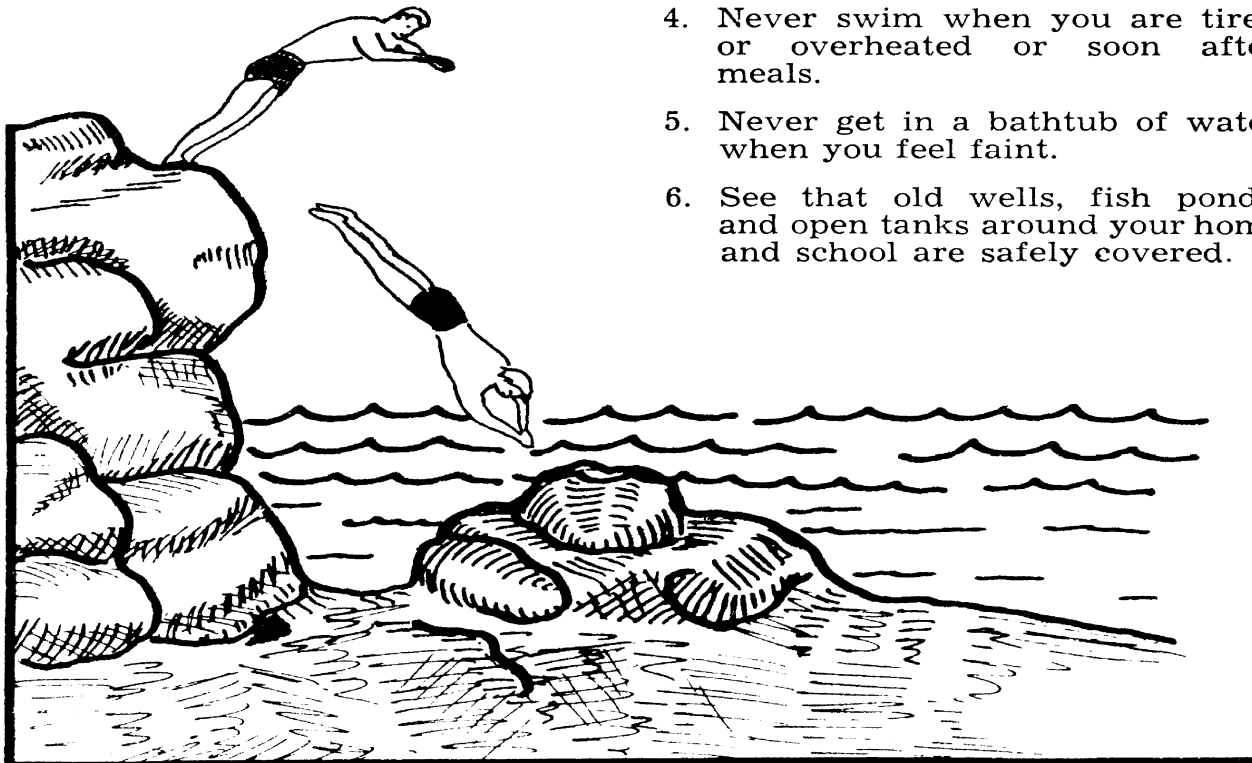


4. Be careful not to turn gas flames too high.
5. If you smell the odor of gas, open doors and windows immediately and ask adults to check for the leak.
6. Roll down the windows while sitting in a still automobile with the motor running.

## Drownings

Swimming is fun and good recreation. Everyone would like to be a good swimmer but great caution is necessary to prevent accidents in the water.

1. Never prank or indulge in horseplay while swimming. Almost instant death may occur.
2. Always have at least one other person along while swimming. Learn the rules and practice them. Learn and practice the buddy system.
3. Never dive in unfamiliar waters. Swim only in places approved for swimming.



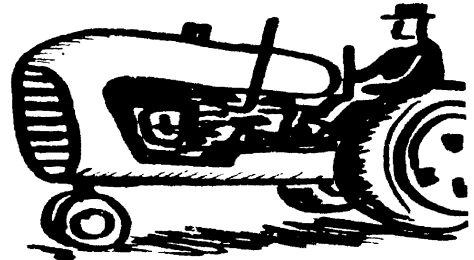
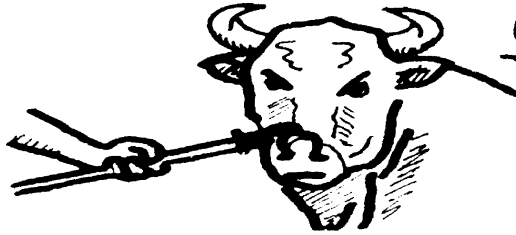
4. Never swim when you are tired or overheated or soon after meals.
5. Never get in a bathtub of water when you feel faint.
6. See that old wells, fish ponds, and open tanks around your home and school are safely covered.

# BE CAREFUL WHILE :



COOKING

HANDLING  
FARM ANIMALS



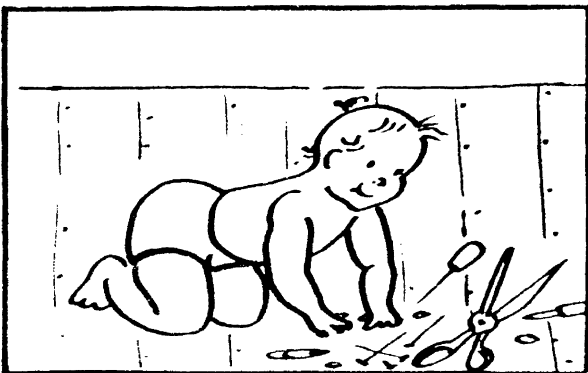
OPERATING  
FARM  
MACHINERY

## Farm or Work Accidents

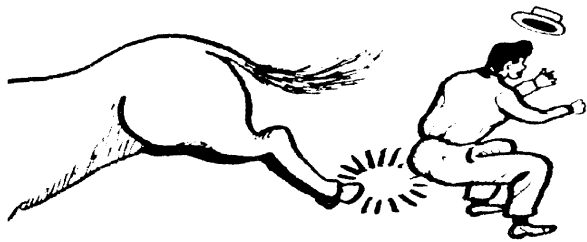
1. Use all safeguards on all tractors.
2. Learn the safe way to operate the tractor.
3. Never ride on a tractor except on the seat.
4. Never move the tractor without getting in the driver's place.
5. Handle all farm or other machines carefully.
6. When you learn to operate a new machine, learn the safe way.
7. Handle hand tools carefully such as the ax, saw, pitch-fork, chisel, and screw driver.
8. Learn to repair electrical connections and keep all in proper condition.

## Tips for Avoiding Other Accidents

1. Keep your sewing equipment at home and school stored safely. Be careful with pins, needles and scissors.
2. Do not leave pins, buttons, and small objects on the floor or where small children may find and swallow them.
3. Remove all broken glass, tin cans, nails, and other rubbish from your home or school grounds.
4. Use all equipment according to instructions.
5. Wash and wipe sharp knives separately.
6. Always have dry hands when operating and electrical switch or appliance.
7. Learn to operate the safety devices on electrical appliances that you use.



8. Never throw objects at another person.
9. Never tease animals. They often defend themselves by biting, scratching, or striking. Learn to respect them.
10. In handling a bull use staff, not rope.
11. Keep away from the heads of cattle with horns, in fly-time.
12. In riding or working horses or mules, never surprise them. They may kick. Mount and harness from the left side. Keep a safe distance between you and them so that they cannot trample your feet.
13. Learn to lift properly so as not to injure your back.



DON'T TEASE ANIMALS !

14. Dress sensibly for the job at hand.
15. Avoid getting overheated.
16. Avoid sunburn.
17. Do not drink excessive water when very hot.
18. Keep tools and machines in good repair.
19. Teach accident prevention by practicing it.

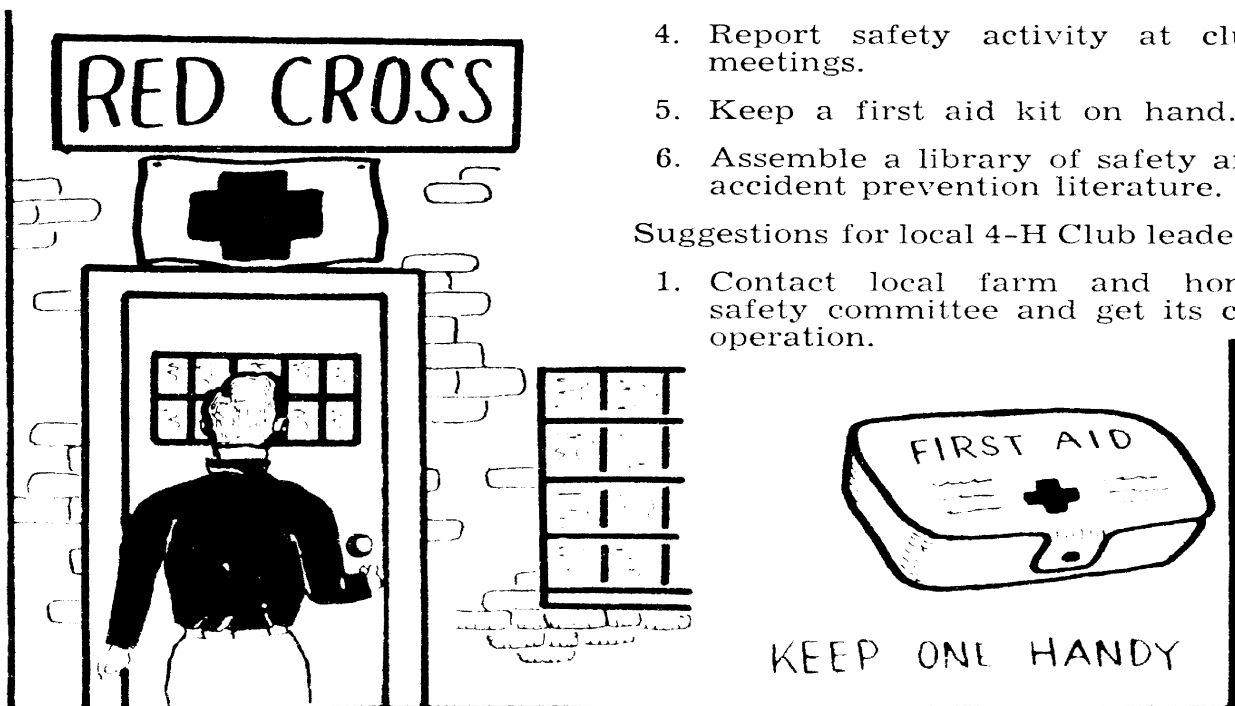
### General Safety Activity

Suggested safety activities for 4-H members:

1. Give talks on safety at local community meetings.
2. Write stories and articles for publication in your local papers.
3. Become familiar with motor vehicle laws of the State.
4. Report safety activity at club meetings.
5. Keep a first aid kit on hand.
6. Assemble a library of safety and accident prevention literature.

Suggestions for local 4-H Club leaders.

1. Contact local farm and home safety committee and get its co-operation.



2. Contact local Red Cross chapter and enlist its services.
3. Consult officials of any other organizations interested in safety work.
4. Add safety literature to your 4-H library.



5. Ask your county or home demonstration agent for a list of references on safety and fire prevention.

Types of safety demonstrations or talks:

1. Safety in the farm home.
2. Safe ways of handling livestock.
3. Making farm machinery and equipment safe.
4. Making farmyard safe from accidents.
5. Preventing carbon monoxide poisoning.
6. Using electrical appliances properly.
7. Safe places for treacherous tools.
8. Safe driving.
9. Safe walking.
10. First aid.

### General Fire Activities

Suggested fire activities for 4-H Club members:

1. Give talks at meetings on fire value and damage.
2. Write stories or news articles on fire for local papers.
3. Become acquainted with fire laws.
4. Report fire losses, activities, or progress in fire prevention to 4-H Club.
5. Give or write a timely topic on fire.
6. Assemble a library on fire.

Suggestions for local 4-H Club leaders:

1. Contact village or city fire departments for their help.
2. Get acquainted with local fire insurance agents. They have a wealth of material.



3. Organize a fire drill for the entire school.
4. Add fire material to your library.
5. Ask County or Home Agent for material on fire prevention, conservation, etc.

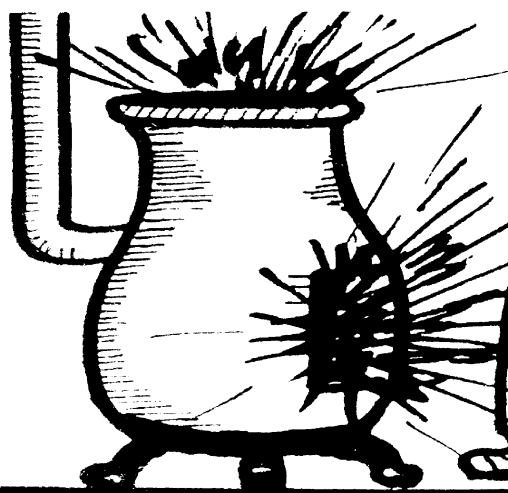
Types of fire demonstrations or talks:

1. Fire hazards of a tractor or engine.
2. Forest fires, causes and damage.
3. Fires as related to soil conservation.
4. Common causes of fires in homes.
5. How to fight a land fire.
6. What to do if a person's clothing gets on fire.

Group activities for safety and fire:

1. Organize local volunteer fire departments.
2. Inspect entire neighborhood or community.
3. Inspect school.
4. Appoint committees to inspect, to repair, to remedy safety or fire hazards.
5. Put on parades, displays or contests.
6. Develop programs for safety and fire prevention weeks.
7. Take part in organized fire prevention activities such as wild-life conservation contests.

## BURN TRASH IN A BARREL



DON'T  
USE  
KEROSENE  
TO  
START  
FIRES

# REFERENCES

Inspection sheet on: Home Safety  
Farm and Everyday Safety  
Home Fires  
School Fires

## Federal Bulletins:

U. S. D. A. M. P. No. 608 WATCH YOUR STEP AVOID FARM  
ACCIDENTS

U. S. D. A. Leaflet No. 44 FIRES ON FARMS

U. S. D. A. F. B. No. 1590 FIRE PROTECTIVE CONSTRUCTION  
ON THE FARM

U. S. D. A. F. B. No. 1643 FIRE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE FARM

## A SAFETY PRAYER

**I leave home in the morning**

**All happy and bright—**

**God keep me safe till**

**I get home at night.**

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