



## **PREVENTING INJURIES TO CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS**

**Allow children to perform age-appropriate farm work only under supervision.**

- Don't allow a child to attempt tasks inappropriate for his or her age, size, strength, cognitive ability or prior experience.

**Construct barriers to keep children from entering hazardous areas, especially open bodies of water.**

- Create safe play areas on the farm, physically separated from animals, farm equipment and open bodies of water.
- Make sure children wear personal flotation devices while on or near water.

**Turn off all farm machinery whenever children are near.**

- Ensure that safety shields are intact and in place on all farm machinery.

**Children should be appropriately restrained in the back seat with a car seat or seat belt every time they ride in a motor vehicle.**

- Never allow anyone to ride in a pickup truck bed.
- Never allow children ages 15 and under to ride on or operate ATVs, snowmobiles or tractors.
- Never allow passengers on tractors, mowers or minibikes.

**Always supervise young horseback riders, both on and off the horse.**

- Ensure that children always wear equestrian helmets that meet safety standards.

### **Take precautions against residential fires.**

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and in every sleeping area. Test them once a month. Replace the batteries at least two times a year, such as when daylight savings time starts and ends. Ten-year lithium alarms do not require battery changes. Replace all alarms every 10 years. For the best protection against different types of fires, consider installing both ionization alarms (better at sensing flaming fires) and photoelectric alarms (better at sensing slow, smoky fires).
- Ensure that heating equipment is correctly installed.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually.

