

FARM POND SAFETY

A farm pond is constructed for soil erosion and flood prevention, or water storage for livestock, irrigation, fire protection or fish production.

A farm pond is a natural recreation center for those who live near it, and is also often used for swimming, fishing, boating, hunting and skating.

The unfortunate feature of a farm pond is that it is also a body of water in which drownings can occur. Drownings are the outstanding non-motor-vehicle cause of accidental deaths among people in the active age groups, especially children. These deaths by drowning are due to swimming accidents, falls into water while working or playing on or near bodies of water, and accidents involving small boats.

The Soil Conservation Service incorporates safety features into its recommended design of a farm pond. It also recommends that such safety measures as can be economically accomplished be done during the construction of the farm pond. These include evenly grading the borrow areas below pond level to avoid steep slopes and holes in the pond and removing snags, big rocks and trash that could be a hazard to swimmers and boats.

Other safety recommendations are:

1. LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE PLACED NEAR THE POND where it can be easily seen and used during an emergency. The sight of a life ring can make a witness's brain function. Even a youngster will throw out a life ring to someone who is drowning, practically without thinking, if one is visible. A long pole placed where it can be seen and used can save the life of a loved one. A rope, handily placed can be used to pull out a helpless swimmer. See other side for typical installation.

2. WARNING SIGNS SHOULD BE PLACED:

- near specific danger areas
- near the pond telling all who come near what the extreme depth of the pond is
- what and where life saving equipment is available
- where the nearest telephone is and whom to call in case of emergency

3. IF YOU GO BOATING:

- use a boat that is in good shape
- never overload the boat
- there should be one approved life preserver on board for each person on board

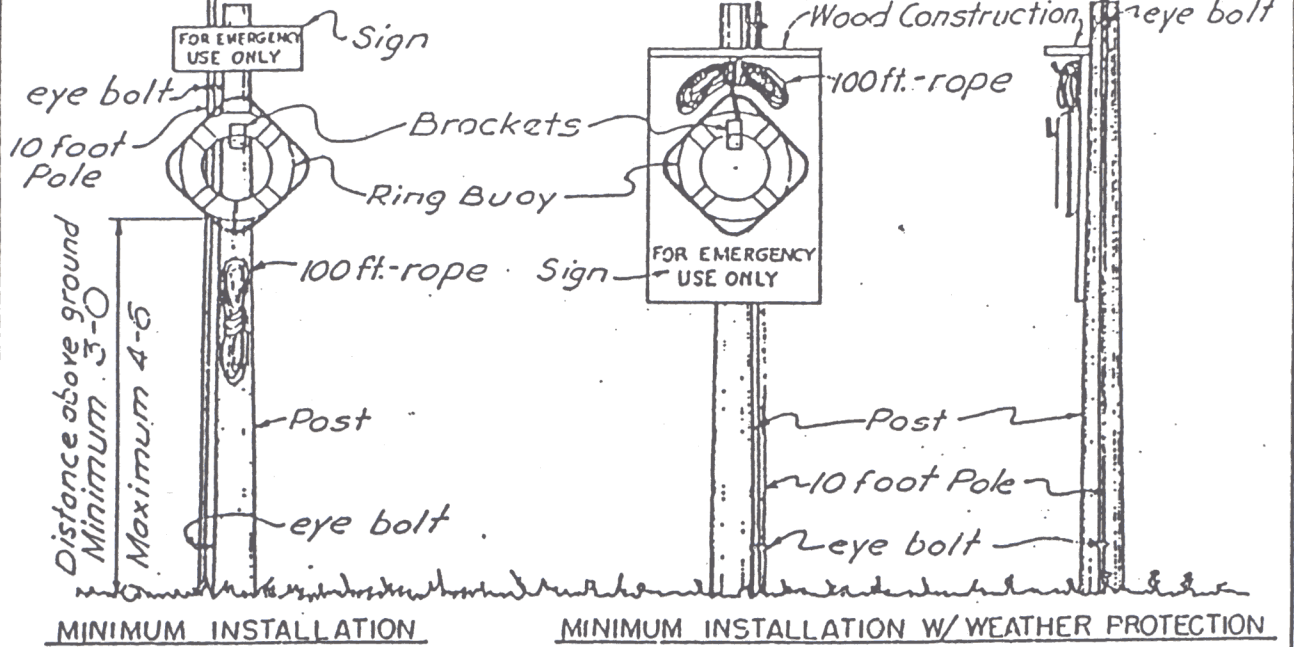
4. ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION - Everyone who lives, works, or plays near a farm pond should know how to swim and how to give artificial respiration. These are taught by many organizations such as the American Red Cross. Find out more about it from your local organization.

These recommendations may not completely satisfy the requirements of local laws. EVERY FARM POND OWNER SHOULD COUNSEL with an attorney to determine:

- his liability in case of serious accident or death at his farm pond
- legal requirements pertaining to precautions and safety at farm ponds

The privilege of having a pond on his farm gives the owner additional responsibilities. POSTING THE POND AGAINST TRESPASSERS DOES NOT RELIEVE THE OWNER OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. Each farm pond owner has the MORAL obligation to his family, friends, and neighbors to make his farm pond SAFE by providing such safeguards as he can to prevent an INCIDENT on his farm pond from becoming an ACCIDENT - or DEATH.

TYPICAL LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT INSTALLATIONS.



MINIMUM INSTALLATION

MINIMUM INSTALLATION W/ WEATHER PROTECTION

- Notes: 1. Locate in a conspicuous spot near the pond where readily available in case of emergency.
 2. Keep vegetation cut short near installation.

WARNING SIGNS

GENERAL

WARNING

THIS POND IS XX FEET DEEP

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

1. Life Ring, Pole and Rope are available on Top of Dam, 300 ft. east.
2. Nearest Telephone is of John Doe home 1/2 mile south.
 Call Fire Dept. Phone xxx
 Sheriff Phone xxx
 Dr. I.M. Sawbones Phone xxx
3. Life Preservers, Boat and Tools are available in S.E. corner of barn at farmstead.

SPECIFIC DANGER AREAS

CAVING BANKS

SHALLOW WATER

OVERHANGING BANKS

STEEP SLOPES

PIPE INTAKE

Notes:

1. Use dark lettering on white background.
2. Use large size lettering. Largest letters should be 2" or larger. Smallest letters 1".
3. Preserve face of sign by coating with clear preservative.
4. Post signs where easily seen when approaching pond.
5. Keep vegetation cut short around signs.