

Sept 15-44

STATE OF WASHINGTON



INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

WILLIAM A. SULLIVAN  
COMMISSIONER

OLYMPIA

Due to the recent wave of Hop Kiln fires I wish to urge that extreme caution be exercised by all kiln operators. After an extensive investigation of the five fires which have just occurred in this district the theory has been advanced that static electricity is responsible for several of the fires. It has been found that the fan motors and fan assemblies in a majority of the kilns throughout this area are not properly grounded in that they do not have a means of carrying off this form of electricity as it is generated and collected by the moving parts. This is particularly true of kilns where the fan assemblies are located in the cupula of the buildings.

Inasmuch as making this correction does not involve much expense or labor I wish to take this opportunity to publicly urge all operators to cooperate with us and take this precaution in that future losses from this cause may be prevented.

D. J. Young  
Deputy State  
Fire Marshal