



# Nursery & Greenhouse Operations

A list of best practices for loss prevention to help Ohio Mutual agent partners and members identify the most common hazards that Nursery & Greenhouse Operations face every day.

## Best Practices

Nurseries, greenhouses, and retail centers are found more than ever in this tri-fold configuration, requiring extra attention be paid to the patron foot traffic they will experience. Critical considerations for operating a safe environment include addressing the following issues:

### Life Safety

- There should be an adequate number of exits (at least 2, unless your structure is less than fifty feet at its farthest point from the main entrance) that are clear, clearly defined, close, and accessible; this applies to hoop huts, too.
- Keep storefront and required exit doors unlocked (or equipped with panic hardware) during business hours. They must “swing open” in the flow of patron traffic exiting the building.
- Exit signs and emergency lighting must be illuminated and inspected and tested monthly.



- Post evacuation diagrams on the back of all doors and strategically place them throughout the structure. Personnel should be trained for emergency procedures.

- Maintain open and adequate aisle space, not only in the storefront but critically in storage areas so firefighters and maintenance workers can easily access problem spots in case of emergencies.
- Ensure flooring (concrete, asphalt, pavers, gravel, dirt, etc.) is level, clean, dry, and maintained to reduce slip/trip/fall hazards.

### Fire Safety



- Remove temporary heating appliances and non-standard wiring, especially in hoop huts and greenhouses, as irrigation and automatic watering systems present many hazards.
- Inaccessible areas should be clearly identified and kept locked or barricaded.
- Enforce a “No Smoking” policy.
- Portable fire extinguishers should be the appropriate size and mounted throughout the structure.
- Ensure the hardwired smoke and heat detection systems are monitored by a central station.

### Chemical Safety



- Schedule application of chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, or other kinds of disease treatment so there is ample time for residue to diminish, reducing exposure to customers.
- When possible, perform chemical applications outside, keeping plants safely away from the public and outside of your structures.
- Hazardous liquid, aerosol, solid, or powder products require formal, written controls and procedures included within your safety program. Safety Data Sheets should be accessible in the office and displayed near storage/use areas along with emergency procedures for exposure, spills, fires, etc., including waterways and sources.

