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Severe Burns Put Fitzsimons in Hospital

CROOKSTON, Minn. — State Rep. Richard Fitzsimons, Argyle Conservative, one of the state's most influential legislators, was severely burned in a tractor accident Friday at his farm near Argyle.



Fitzsimons

He was listed in satisfactory condition late yesterday at St. Francis Hospital here with first, second and third degree burns over one-third of his body.

His doctor, Donald Stewart of Crookston, said Fitzsimons would be hospitalized for two or three weeks.

THE ACCIDENT occurred shortly before noon.

His mother-in-law, Mrs. Esther Kyseth, who is visiting at the Fitzsimons home, said she and her daughter were in the house when they saw him running toward the house on fire.

"Janice (her daughter) rolled him in the grass and took him right to Warren."

Some of the burns were bandaged there before he was taken by ambulance to Crookston, Dr. Stewart said.

FITZSIMONS, 47, is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, which, with its Senate counterpart, has a major responsibility in formulating state spending policies.

A member of the House since 1953, he also is a member of the Rules, Agriculture, Conservation, Elections and Land and Water Resources Committees.

He is a small grain farmer near Argyle, in the northwestern corner of the state.

Mrs. Kyseth said Fitzsimons was working with a tractor in the farmyard, preparing to go out to the field, when the accident occurred. It's likely that the fuel caught on fire in some way, she said.

Severe burns
at legislator
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CROOKSTON, Minn. — The chairman of Minnesota's House Appropriations Committee, State Rep. Richard Fitzsimons, was severely burned in a tractor accident Friday at his Argyle farm.

The Conservative lawmaker was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Crookston with first, second and third degree burns over one-third of his body.

Fitzsimons' mother-in-law, Mrs. Esther Kyseth, said she and her daughter saw him running "toward the house on fire."

Mrs. Fitzsimons drove her husband to a hospital at Warren and he was taken to Crookston later. His doctor, Donald Stewart of Crookston, said the 47-year-old lawmaker would be hospitalized two to three weeks.

Fitzsimons, a House member since 1953, is a small grain farmer.