

FIRE SAFETY

DURING HARVEST SEASON



Many areas face dry weather during fall harvest season. Today's combines can easily catch fire, and these fires can rapidly spread. Use the following tips to prevent fires during harvest season.

PREVENT COMBINE FIRES

KEEP EQUIPMENT CLEAN

Clean your combine regularly, especially around the engine and exhaust areas. Battery-powered leaf blowers and air compressors can be used to clear debris. Power washing can also be used to remove grease and oil that may act to accelerate a fire.

PARK SMART

Make sure combines are cooled down before parking them in sheds. If combines are parked in the field, make sure they are parked on fire-resistant surfaces. Consider creating firebreaks by disking areas around equipment parked in fields.

MONITOR ENGINE LOAD

High stress on engines increases fire risk. Newer engines generate higher temperatures.

CHECK BEARINGS


Overheating bearings may cause fires. An infrared thermometer can be used to monitor bearing temperatures, and set to shut down the machine if temperatures exceed safe levels.

HARVEST RESPONSIBLY

Don't harvest during extreme fire weather. Be very cautious between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, when the fire risk is often high.

Information for this flyer came from UNL Crop Watch. Find even more information here:



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PREPARE FOR FIRES DURING HARVEST SEASON

- Begin harvesting from the downwind side of fields.
- Keep a cell phone or satellite phone on hand for emergencies.
- Carry a fire extinguisher in the combine cab.
- Make sure all fire extinguishers are regularly checked and maintained.

HOW TO HANDLE A FIRE

1. If it is safe, pull the combine into an area that has already been harvested.
2. Turn off the engine to prevent the air intake from feeding the fire.
3. Dial 911 and call for help as soon as possible. Provide clear directions for emergency services.
4. Prevent the fire from spreading, if possible.

Cut below the line and post the instructions by your fire extinguisher.

HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Remember to P-A-S-S!

P

PULL

Pull the pin.

A

AIM

Aim the nozzle of the fire extinguisher at the base of the fire.

S

SQUEEZE

Squeeze the trigger slowly and evenly.

S

SWEEP

Sweep the extinguisher from side-to-side to cover all areas where the fire may have spread.

