

Montana Ag Safety Program



Fire Safety and Wildfire Prevention

- Store highly combustible materials appropriately.
 - Hay, straw, and bedding materials should be stored away from buildings, if possible, on areas of bare ground.
 - Consider multiple hay yard sites to minimize overall risk and impact.
 - Use flammable storage cabinets.
 - Store materials in original containers; use only appropriate alternative containers.
- Use extreme caution with sources of ignition.
 - Cigarettes, matches, sparks, motors, fence chargers, electrical fixtures/appliances/wires, batteries, equipment
- Ensure access is maintained to all areas of the farm/ranch.
 - Build and maintain roads.
 - Gates should be wide enough for equipment/vehicles to easily pass through and be opened easily (without a stretcher!).
 - Low hanging branches and trees/shrubs blocking roadways should be removed.
- Maintain all equipment at manufacturer recommended intervals. Replace worn or broken parts. Properly maintained equipment is less likely to start a fire.
- Keep grass short, particularly in areas that receive vehicle traffic and around buildings.
- Monitor temperature of haystacks, silage pits, and composting sites frequently.
- Ensure fire extinguishers are available and routinely maintained in all buildings, vehicles, and equipment.
- Shovels, fire rakes, and flappers (made from mudflaps or large belting attached to a long handle) should be readily accessible.
- Know and understand evacuation procedures.
- Keep an adequate water supply available – fill temporary means of water storage during times of high fire danger.
- Use grazing to reduce fuel loads where appropriate.
- Wear natural materials any time you are near active flame – long pants, long sleeves, safety glasses, cap, gloves, and heavy boots. Avoid synthetic fibers; wool or cotton are preferable.
- Fire conditions change rapidly, stay up to date. Heed all warnings and orders.
 - Human life is the number one priority!**
- A building or vehicle can provide some protection in the event of a burnover.
- Rinse eyes, nose, and mouth frequently with cool, clean water while exposed to wildfire smoke.
- Engage in fire fighting only when safe and authorized to do so.
 - Remember, fight from the black.
 - Unauthorized engagement prevents additional resources from assisting such as aerial attacks.

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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