

HOW TO AVOID BEING A BRIGHT SPARK

Five steps to reduce harvester fire risk



**GRAIN
PRODUCERS SA**
The voice of South Australian growers

PREPARE

It is recommended to establish a minimum 4-metre fuel break around perimeters of crops or paddocks to be harvested, or establish a series of strategic breaks around groups of paddocks.



Review fire safety plans for each farm. Ensure all staff are trained.

Establish a fire prevention and emergency response strategy for all staff, contractors and machinery operators.

MAINTAIN

Adopt a regular maintenance program before and during harvest, in particular wearing parts and bearings. Keep records.



All operators of harvesting equipment should be bushfire ready by having appropriate firefighting clothing and a plan for the protection of themselves, their equipment and the community.

MONITOR



Monitor weather conditions and forecasts to stop harvest when the local actual Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) exceeds 35 measured at 2 metres.

If conditions deteriorate, increase machinery maintenance and vigilance. Monitor media.

If you have any doubts about the harvest conditions, talk to your local SA Country Fire Service (CFS) group officer or Brigade Captain as it is important to keep the communications open between grain producers and the CFS.

BE SAFE



It is a legislated requirement that, when using a stationary engine to auger grain, a person who is able to control the engine must be present when it is in use, or an area of at least 4m around must be cleared.

It is legislated that producers must carry a shovel or rake, portable water spray, and ensure engine and exhaust systems comply with regulations.

If it's too hot or windy and you think there's a fire risk, stop harvesting.

Ensure crop residues on the machine are kept to an absolute minimum, particularly on engines, exhausts and brakes. Reduce any potential build up of static electricity through harvest. Have immediate access to a UHF or mobile phone.

Have a fire-fighting unit in the paddock with at least 400L of water.

COMMUNICATE

Making a decision to stop in-paddock operations?

Talk to your neighbours and let them know.

Make the call as communities and protect your farm assets and your neighbour's.



Regularly check the SA Country Fire Service website for updates.

Visit: www.grainproducerssa.com.au for resources, including the GFDI Grain Harvest Operations Table