

During harvest, there can be a lot on your mind. One topic to keep top of mind is fire safety — doing so could save you and your livelihood.

High winds and dry conditions make for potentially dangerous fire situations.

### **Tips to prevent field and combine fires**

Once a fire starts, it has the potential to spread quickly and become a danger to you and your property and those around you. The below tips will help prevent field and combine fires:

- ▶ During the day, walk around machinery and watch, listen and smell to check everything is in good working order.
- ▶ Ensure bearings and drives are lubricated and adjust tension as needed.
- ▶ Check exposed wiring for damage, wear and deterioration.
- ▶ Remove straw, chaff and other crop residues, dust, debris, dirt and excess lubricant around all heat sources regularly.
- ▶ Allow engine to cool before refuelling farm equipment.
- ▶ Take precautionary measures when using low-clearance vehicles in fields, as exhaust pipes and catalytic converters can ignite dry grass or stubble.
- ▶ Clean or blow off chaff and straw from the radiator and air-intake vents regularly to prevent engine overheating or fires elsewhere on the combine.
- ▶ Mow your grass short in the fall to prevent the spread of wildfire in late fall/early winter before adequate snow cover.
- ▶ Before storing your equipment for the season, make a pass or two around your yard and feed storage areas to slow the spread of fire, if one occurs.

### **Essential safety tips**

- ▶ Have a fire extinguishers mounted on equipment and ensure everyone is trained to use it. We recommend having a fire extinguisher in the cab and another one accessible from the ground.



## FIRE PREVENTION TIP SHEET

# HARVEST FIRE SAFETY

- ▶ Always have a charged cell phone with you so you can call 9-1-1 for help if needed. We recommend also having your neighbour's phone numbers programmed in your phone so you can call for help or alert them to a fire threatening their properties.
- ▶ Carry equipment with you that can help put out or reduce the spread of a fire. This includes a shovel, a tillage implement and several gallons of water. If possible, have a tractor available and/or a water truck or trailer with a pump and hose.

*Information contained in this tip sheet has been modified from **AgSafe Alberta**, **FireSmart Alberta**, and the **Canola Council of Canada**.*

### Contact Leduc County Fire Services

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