



FARM SAFETY CHECK

Farm Safety Check: Preventing Field Fires

Harvest is a busy time for many farms. As cooler temperatures replace summer heat, crops begin to dry down rapidly, increasing risk for dangerous fires on the farm. Hot equipment or engine sparks interacting with dry plant material and grain dust can become a highly combustible combination, making field fires a major concern for farmers.

Prevention and preparation are key to steering clear of field fires this harvest season. Use this checklist to keep you and your employees safe.

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the form below to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your farm. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections. Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at:

<http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

Potential Hazard OR Checklist Items	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
Do you regularly clean areas where chaff or plant material can build up? (Try an air compressor or leaf blower to remove crop residue, and a pressure washer to remove built up oil or caked-on grease.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you checked that bearings and gears are well lubricated and there are no worn bearings or other areas that could overheat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Did you check for damaged wires with worn insulation or frayed belts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you checked that fuses match the recommended capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are exhaust systems in good repair/conditions, with preventative measures like a spark arrestor ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you made sure engines are off and hot engines have cooled for at least 15 minutes when refueling equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you extinguished all open flames before refueling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are any repairs needed to fix leaks in the fuel system? Did you wipe away any excess fuel that spilled on the engine, let fumes dissipate before starting the engine, and remove oily rags that are placed near equipment or in the cab?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have two working and charged fire extinguishers on the combine, tractor or grain hauling equipment? Do you have one in the cab and one to access from the ground?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you carrying a cell phone or an alternative to communicate with others in case of an emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you checked the weather one to two weeks in advance or daily to note any forecasted extreme weather events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: ____/____/____

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



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Additional Hazards	Yes	Needs Correction	Date Corrected or Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Avoiding Field Fires During Fall Harvest

South Dakota State University Extension

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/avoiding-field-fires-during-fall-harvest>

Combine and Tractor Fires – A Burning Problem

University of Wisconsin Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/agsafety/machinery/combine-and-tractor-fires-a-burning-problem/>

Dry Weather Makes Field Fires a Safety Concern for Farmers

Ohio State University Extension

<https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2015-32/dry-weather-makes-field-fires-safety-concern-farmers>

Prevent Combine Fires During Fall Harvest

Ohio State University Extension

<https://agsafety.osu.edu/newsletter/ag-safety-stat/safety-through-seasons-2021/prevent-combine-fires-during-fall-harvest>

Keeping Your Equipment and Fields Fire Safe At Harvest

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cropwatch

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/2017/keeping-equipment-fields-fire-safe-harvest>

Farm Emergency Preparedness Planning

Center for Food Security and Public Health

<http://www.prep4agthreats.org/All-Hazard-Preparedness/farm-emergency-preparedness-plan>

Farm Fire Prevention Guide

Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH)

<https://icash.public-health.uiowa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Fire-Safety-tri-fold-brochure-FINAL.pdf>

Preventing Building Fires

Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH)

<http://umash.umn.edu/farm-safety-check-preventing-building-fires/>

The facts and information provided are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to ensure your safety, and are not an endorsement of any products mentioned.

For additional Farm Safety Check topics and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

To receive Farm Safety Check topics via email, join the UMASH email list at <http://umash.umn.edu/join-our-email-list>