

# Combine and Tractor Fire Safety



As Midwestern weather is becoming hotter and dryer, and with many machinery parts now made of more flammable synthetic materials, fire safety is essential. A fire can still occur in properly maintained machinery.

## Be Prepared

- Keep at least one fully charged ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher in every machine and check for adequate pressure monthly.
- Two extinguishers per machine is preferred in case one loses pressure or malfunctions; keep one mounted in the cab and one where it can be reached from the ground.
- Combines should have 10 lb. extinguishers, and tractors should have 5 lb. extinguishers.

## If a Combine or Tractor Catches Fire

- Turn off the engine, immediately exit the cab and get away from the machine; call 911 and provide the exact location of the fire.
- Attempting to fight a fire should only happen after calling 911 and determining if it is safe to do so.
- Direct extinguishing material at the base of the fire and stay a safe distance away from the fire.
- Use caution when opening the engine compartment or other hatches as small fires can flare with extra air.

***Additional resources are available at [www.i-cash.org](http://www.i-cash.org)***

# Combine and Tractor Fire Safety



Combine and tractor fires cause more than \$20 million in equipment losses and much more in lost time and productivity. Dry conditions increase the risk of fires in equipment, especially when combined with high winds. Prevention starts long before you get to the field.

## Conduct Inspections

- Clean residue, fuel, and grease from the machine, including the areas around wiring and electrical components.
- Clear loose plant material from other heat-generating components like bearings and belts.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance and lubrication prior to storage, check for leaks in hoses and fittings.
- Store machine away from furnaces and equipment that might generate sparks.

## Eliminate Heat Sources

- Exhaust system surfaces are often responsible for fires. Ensure that the exhaust system, including manifold, muffler, and turbocharger, are in good condition and free of leaks.
- Replace any worn wiring or malfunctioning electrical components with parts from your dealer.
- Maintain bearings, belts, and chains. Worn bearings can produce immense heat and rubber belts subjected to high heat can combust.

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