

Fire Safety

Haystack Fires

Green or damp hay encourages elements like bacteria and fungi to grow and decompose. A series of complex biological and chemical reactions can then cause a build-up that allows hay to heat. This can produce flammable gasses which may ignite.

Haystack fires are also caused by sparks from machinery and equipment, and embers from burn offs or bushfires.

To prevent haystack fires:

- Ensure hay is fully cured before baling.
- Keep haystacks to a limited size.

Storing Hay

- Store hay in separate stacks, in a number of places away from other buildings, sheds, vehicles and machinery.
- Away from potential ignition sources.
- In areas that are not likely to flood and in sheds that are in good repair to minimise moisture.

Don't stack hay right to the top of a hay shed

Allow some air to circulate at the top - this helps to carry away moisture

- Protect hay from rain, leaking roofs and spouts and cover stacks with tarps or hay caps.
- Monitor hay with a correctly calibrated moisture meter. Moisture content should be no more than 20% (12 – 18% is recommended as a precaution).

If Hay Becomes Hot

1. Spread the stack out to allow it to cool.
2. Don't walk on top of any hay that is heating as it may collapse or ignite.
3. Don't feed it to animals. The heating process reduces the nutrient quality of the hay.



Fire Safety

FIRE - BE PREPARED

Fire and Safety Statistics



Less than **50%** of people know how to confidently use a fire extinguisher

Less than **50%** of people know the correct evacuation route for a fire emergency



Less than **25%** of people know the location of fire extinguishers in their building



MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Remember DRABCD

Danger - check for danger and assess safety

Response - check whether the patient is unresponsive, unconscious

Send for Help - as soon as practicable, call 000

Airway - open airway, tilt head, lift chin

Breathing - check breathing, is it normal, abnormal, no breathing

Circulation – if no breathing 30 compressions, 2 breaths

Defibrillation - as soon as available, attach leads and follow prompts

Burns first aid

