MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Equipment is expensive and vital to get jobs completed on a daily basis. An equipment fire could put an abrupt stop to time-sensitive operations and critical research or income, while also endangering people and adjacent property.

A few things to be aware of and help prevent an equipment fire …

Keep Equipment Clean.
Grass clippings and harvest remnants that pile up become fuel to turn a spark into an uncontrollable fire. The more fuel available, the quicker a small fire can get out of hand. Clean off equipment at least daily, and if necessary, take a few minutes to do the same before starting back after lunch.

BAD   GOOD

Perform Routine Maintenance.
Many equipment fires are the result of ignored maintenance needs. Chaffed hydraulic hoses, blistered paint on bearing housings & damaged wire insulation are a few things to lookout for when performing a pre-operation walk around. If something looks, sounds or feels different, during use, stop and investigate. Mechanical parts will usually give an indication of a problem before they turn into emergency problems, so don't ignore these signs.

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Protect all Electrical.
Equipment is loaded these days with electrical gadgets. But if there are other accessories you must have, do not forget to ensure it is fused, or circuit breaker protected. Use appropriate connectors and protective sleeve on the wires. Wiring that is damaged could arc, causing sparks and fire but a protected circuit will prevent this.

GOOD
BAD

Have a Plan.
Keep a charged fire extinguisher on or in equipment. Make sure you can get to it quickly and it's in good condition with the gauge needle in the green. In addition to the commonly use ABC extinguisher, a water extinguisher is also beneficial with combustibles before flaming up. A water extinguisher sprays streams strong enough to penetrate and reach smoldering hot spots (like inside a hay bailer or cotton hopper).

GOOD   BAD