

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
(760) 723-2010
Agricultural Fire Safety Bulletin

STORAGE OF COMBUSTIBLES

- A. Hay bales-ensure dryness before storage, store away from structure when wet. Remove accumulations from barn
- B. Manure piles-store away from structures. If used in composting, turn pile frequently to avoid spontaneous ignition
- C. Ordinary combustibles-keep to a minimum in barn; avoid loose hay storage, trash accumulation, etc

AGRICULTURAL BURNING

- A. 30' Clearance in all directions from structures and other vegetation; clear ground down to bare mineral earth in vicinity of burn.
- B. Have a water supply available.
- C. Obtain a burning permit from the Fire Dept.
- D. Burn in manageable piles only, and supervise burning operation.
- E. Fully extinguish fire before leaving unattended.
- F. Do not use flammable liquids to initiate or accelerate burning.

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- A. Avoid use of extension cords in lieu of permanent wiring; extension cords prone to damage and shorting.
- B. Use grounded and GFI protected outlets.
- C. Do not use power equipment in or near water.

FIRE PROTECTION

- A. Have water or dry chemical fire extinguisher in remote structures and on mobile farm equipment. Minimum extinguisher rating of 2A10BC (5lb. Multipurpose dry chemical).
- B. Have water supply with hose and nozzle in place and serviceable.
- C. Periodically inspect for operability of fire protection equipment.

POWER EQUIPMENT

- A. Store gasoline in approved safety cans or inside vehicle's fuel tank. If stored in other than approved cans, store in flammable liquid storage cabinet in conjunction with other flammables. Do not store near combustibles or in open containers.
- B. Do not fuel power equipment which is running or still hot from operation.
- C. Store fuel/combustible liquid soaked rags on metal can or let air dry in an open area
- D. Ensure spark arrestors are in place and serviceable.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

- A. Thoroughly wet down combustibles in vicinity of cutting/welding and post fire watch for 30 min.
- B. Ensure sturdy container and solid base when scalding animals.

WILDLAND FIRE HAZARD SAFETY

- A. Maintain 100' clearance of native vegetation from structure.
- B. Ensure adequate access (12' driveway width, 13' height) . Trim back overhanging limbs. Ensure integrity of roadway access (ruts, slope steepness, lack of adequate surface equals no F.D. access).
- C. Replace combustible exterior building coverings with fire resistive materials or coatings.
- D. Consider purchase of Class 'A' foam.

ANIMAL EVACUATION

- A. Have an evacuation plan in place now!
- B. Have adequate equipment on hand to effect evacuation (vehicles, trailers, etc.).
- C. If prompted or ordered to evacuate, do it immediately. Delays will block F.D. equipment out and block you in!
- D. If evacuation not feasible, shelter animals in place. If building is fire resistive, keep indoors with all openings shut. If building is not fire resistive, move animals to the area of least exposure to fire. Must weigh behavior of animal against imminence of fire threat, resources available to control animals and time available to relocate animals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This information is provided as a community service to the citizens served by the North County Fire Protection District. Additional questions/comments may be forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau by calling (760) 723-2010 or by visiting the Department at 315 East Ivy St., Fallbrook, CA 92028.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the North County Fire Protection District is to safeguard the health and welfare of the community and to mitigate the effects of hazards to life, the environment, and property.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT:

The North County Fire Protection District is a special district within the County of San Diego, which serves a population of 42,500 and covers 90 square miles. The NCFPD was formed in 1986 as a result of a merger between the Fallbrook and Rainbow Fire Protection Districts. The District maintains five full-time fire stations and one volunteer fire station. The District operates five Engine Companies including two Paramedic Engine Companies, two Paramedic Ambulances, two Basic Life Support Ambulances, and three Brush Engines. The District responded to a total of 3967 calls for service in 1998. The District is headed by Fire Chief Edward Burcham and is comprised of: one Deputy Chief, four Battalion Chiefs, one Administrative Captain, one Fire Prevention Specialist, twelve Fire Captains, fifteen Engineers, twenty one Firefighter/Paramedics, three Firefighters, two Administrative Secretaries, two Bookkeepers, three Dispatchers, two Mechanics, and twenty Reserve Firefighters

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AGRICULTURAL FIRE SAFETY

INFORMATION BULLETIN