

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Fire Prevention Bureau
Mowing Contractors Fire Safety Guidelines

- * Maintain equipment: Leaking fuel, oil, or hydraulic fluid can cause fire spread from equipment to vegetation or vegetation to equipment.
- * Check spindles often; vegetation build up can cause fires.
- * Provide approved mufflers and spark arrestors on chainsaws, weed eaters, mowers and tractors. Metal sparks and carbon can cause vegetation fires.
- * Provide sufficient required firefighting equipment:
 - Minimum five (5) gallon water back pump or pressurized water extinguisher.
 - Shovel with handle length 46 inches minimum on tractor.
 - Type 2A10BC fire extinguisher for equipment fires.
- * Walk mowing site prior to mowing. Be aware of metal, rocks, sprinkler risers, and wire which could come in contact with mower blades or equipment.
- * Evaluate weather conditions before mowing. When there are high temperatures, low humidity and winds, mow early and quit by noon to reduce fire threat.
- * Evaluate mower deck height. Adjust no lower than 3 to 4 inches to prevent hitting rocks or metal objects.
- * Heed warning signs. For example, starting small fires during mowing operation, which were extinguished, and continuing to mow.
- * Call 911 prior to attempting to extinguish fire. All fires shall be reported whether extinguished or not.
- * Educate employees on proper firefighting procedure.
- * Begin mowing operation outside perimeter on the leeward side. Parcels five acres or more shall be mowed in quadrants.
- * As a safety issue, place "SLOW MOVING VEHICLE" sign on tractor.
- * REMEMBER, IF YOU CAUSE A FIRE YOU COULD BE CITED AND/OR HELD FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE. BE CAREFUL - FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES.