

THE SAFETY LEADER

Prevention is the Key

Proper Hay Storage

Blown-in hay can be even more dangerous than stored bales.

Make a probe and check your hay regularly!

Important Temps for Hay

Temp in Degrees F

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 230 | Combustion! |
| 210 - 215 | Just add air for Ignition |
| 190 | Eminent danger - Call 911 and remove hay |
| 170 | Check Hourly |
| 150 | Hazardous —Check Regularly every 4 hours. |
| 145-130 | Common Range - temps may rise & fall slowly; Check twice a day |
| 100-90 | Sweating Range materials above will get wet and may cause a problem. Check every 24 hours. |
| 70 | Acceptable Range |

Never blow hay into a building. Dust and combustibles associated with this process are easily ignited.

The improper storing of Hay has long been given as a reason for fire damage to a farm outbuilding. But spontaneous combustion is a very preventable cause of loss.

Hay in a mow must be **less than 25% moisture** and stacked in a way to allow air circulation. Never allow hay to be stacked against the walls or all the way to the ceiling. Blown hay does not allow for circulation and should not be used as a hay storage method. Hay should be stacked in a separate or less expensive structure, such as a pole building, used to store only bales of hay . Large bales should be stacked no more than three high with sufficient space between the bales to allow for proper air circulation. All incandescent lights in

any building with hay, straw, or dusty conditions should be globed for fire safety.

A farmer can make an effective hay - temperature probe from 10 feet of 3/4" pipe or conduit. Pinch one end of

the tube closed and rivet it shut. Then grind the end to a point. Drill three or four 3/16" holes near the point, which will allow the thermometer to get a decent reading when inserted into the probe.

Attach a thermometer to a string or wire to insert into the probe. Avoid using thermometers with mercury; if they break they will contaminate the hay. Hay stack temperatures should be monitored for six weeks after harvest.

Hay should not be stored in, near, or with expensive farm buildings or machinery.

