

# Farm Fire Prevention:

## Dry Hay & Combustible Storage Hazards

### Why It Matters:

Dry hay and other combustible materials can easily ignite, causing barn fires, equipment loss, and even fatalities.

### Key Safety Points:

- Store hay at 15–20% moisture, wet hay can cause spontaneous combustion.
- Keep flammables like fuel, chemicals, and oily rags in separate, well-ventilated areas.
- Regularly inspect electrical wiring and outlets in barns and storage areas.
- Keep fire extinguishers accessible and ensure workers know how to use them.
- Never park hot equipment (tractors, combines) near dry grass or hay storage.

### Real-Life Risks:

- Spontaneous hay fires have destroyed entire barns, leading to livestock losses.
- Electrical shorts and improper chemical storage have been major fire hazards on farms.

### Discussion Questions:

- What fire prevention steps can we take to reduce risks?
- Where are fire extinguishers located, and who is trained to use them?