



## INFORMATION FOR RURAL LANDHOLDERS AND FARMERS

# HARVEST FIRES

Fires that start during harvesting operations can destroy homes, crops and livelihoods. However, many are preventable. It is your responsibility to limit the ignition and prevent the spread of fires from your property. Always have firefighting equipment and a water supply available when harvesting to quickly extinguish fires before they escape.

### GRAIN HARVESTING GUIDE

To assist rural landholders and farmers make the right decisions about harvesting operations and to reduce the risk of fires starting and spreading, farmers should regularly use the Grain Harvesting Guide.

The Grain Harvesting Guide enables farmers to measure their local weather conditions and determine if they should continue or delay harvesting operations due to fire risks.

Grain Harvesting Guides are useful stickers for the inside of your cab and are available from your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre.



# RFS



## HARVEST SAFETY ALERTS

During conditions of heightened risk the NSW Rural Fire Service may issue a Harvest Safety Alert.

Harvest Safety Alerts provide a signal to farmers that they should be taking extra precautions during harvesting operations to prevent the ignition and spread of fire due to the prevailing weather conditions.

If a Harvest Safety Alert is issued for your area you should:

<b>STOP</b>  <b>STOP HARVESTING OPERATIONS.</b>	<b>CHECK</b>  <b>CHECK THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, CHECK THE GRAIN HARVESTING GUIDE, AND CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT.</b>	<b>DECIDE</b>  <b>ONLY RESUME OPERATIONS IF SAFE TO DO SO AND REGULARLY REASSESS THE CONDITIONS.</b>
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The decision to issue a Harvest Safety Alert will be made by your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre.

Harvest Safety Alerts will be broadcast via local radio and the NSW RFS website.

These alerts replace Cease Harvests that were previously issued.

Should a fire occur as a result of harvesting operations, contact Triple Zero (000) immediately.

## HOW THE GRAIN HARVESTING GUIDE WORKS

**Step 1** - Measure the current temperature, humidity and wind speed on your property. For wind speeds, average this reading out over 10 minutes. For humidity, round the number down.

**Step 2** - Using measurements taken, find the maximum recommended wind speed in the table.

**Step 3** - Compare this result with the wind speed you recorded.

If the wind speed you've recorded is equal to or greater than the number in the table, it is recommended you do not harvest. Reassess weather conditions later.

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For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:



**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS  
Fire Control Centre:**



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)