

# Grain Harvesting Code of Practice

A Basis for District Harvesting Codes of Practice



## Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI)

### Fire Behaviour Relationships

Fire Danger Index	Rate of Spread (km/h)	Difficulty of Suppression		Maximum Area at Various Times from Start (hectares)				Avg. Final Size of Fire (hectares)
				½hr	1hr	2hr	4hr	
2	0.3	Low	Headfire stopped by road and tracks	3	20	80	320	3
5	0.6	Moderate	Head attack easy with water.	6	40	160	640	16
10	1.3	High	Head attack generally successful with water	15	90	360	1440	65
20	2.6	Very High	Head attack will generally succeed at this Index	35	210	840	3360	450
40	5.2	Very High	Head attack may fail except in favourable circumstances and close back burning to the head may be necessary	80	480	2000	8000	2400
50	6.4	Extreme	Direct attack will generally fail. Backburn from a secure good line with adequate personnel and equipment. Flanks must be held at all costs.	105	630	2500	10000	4000
70	9.0			170	1000	4000	16000	10000
100	12.8			300	1800	7000	28000	32000



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Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions



GRAIN PRODUCERS SA  
The voice of South Australian growers

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## Scope

This code of practice applies to all grain harvesting and grain handling operations that occur “in the paddock”, including operation of grain harvesters, operation of vehicles involved in transporting grain, grain dryers and grain augers.

The Grain Harvesting Code of Practice applies to harvesting of any flammable crop.

## Legislative Requirements

1. Compliance with *Regulation 35* under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* regarding the issue of stationary engines to auger a crop. That is, an operator must clear the space immediately around and above the engine to a distance of at least four (4) metres, or a person who is able to control the engine is present at all times while the engine is in use. The operator must also carry a shovel or rake, and a portable water spray in good working order, and ensure that engine or exhaust system complies with *Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 29 (2)* and (3).

2. Compliance with *Regulation 36* under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* regarding the use of internal combustion engines to harvest or move a flammable crop. That is, an operator must carry a shovel or rake, and a portable water spray; and ensure that engine or exhaust system complies with *Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 29 (2)* and (3).

*Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 29*

(2) For the purposes of this Division, an engine or vehicle exhaust system complies with this Division if:

- (a) all engine exhaust emitted by the engine or vehicle exits through the system; and
- (b) the system, or a device or devices forming part of the system, is designed to prevent the escape of burning material from the system; and
- (c) the system, or a device or devices forming part of the system, is designed to prevent heated parts of the system from coming into contact with flammable vegetation; and
- (d) the system is in good working order.

- (3) For the purposes of subregulation (2)(a), engine exhaust emitted by a turbocharged engine, or a vehicle fitted with a turbocharged engine, by means of a device of a kind commonly known as a waste gate will be taken to exit through the exhaust system of the engine or vehicle.

## Required Practices

1. Suspend grain harvesting operations when the **local actual GFDI exceeds 35**.  
The local actual GFDI can be determined:
  - By a local committee, in consultation with local farmers
  - As measured or calculated by the harvesting operator.
2. Ensure crop residues on machines are kept to an absolute minimum, especially in areas of potentially high fire risk, such as engines, exhausts or brakes.
3. Adopt a regular maintenance program, both before and during grain harvest operations, paying particular attention to wearing parts and bearings.
4. Operators being aware of the construction materials on harvesting machines and taking reasonable steps to reduce any potential build up of static electricity through harvesting operations.
5. Have immediate access to a UHF CB radio or mobile phone.

## Recommended Practices

1. As conditions deteriorate, increased maintenance and vigilance should be practiced.
2. As conditions deteriorate, actively seek information on voluntary harvesting bans.
3. Prior to harvesting commencing, establish a minimum 4-metre fuel break around the perimeters of crops or paddocks to be harvested. This may consist of a 4 metre mown or chemical break with a 2 metre ploughed strip incorporated within it. Alternatively, review your property lay-out and establish a series of strategic fire breaks around groupings of paddocks.
4. Maintain maintenance records.
5. Have a well-maintained and fully operational farm fire-fighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres of water located in the paddock area where harvesting or grain handling operations are occurring. Refer to the Joint Guidelines for operating Farm Fire Units (found at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)).
6. Operators should monitor media fire ban information advice, or consult the Bureau of Meteorology through their various information methods.
7. All operators of harvesting equipment should be bushfire ready by having appropriate fire fighting clothing and a plan for the protection of themselves, their equipment and the community.
8. Inexperienced operators should undergo instruction and training.
9. Establish a fire prevention and emergency response strategy in regards to fire safety for staff, contractors and machinery operators.



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