

MEDIA RELEASE

Avoid haystack fires

Buloke Shire Council is looking to minimise the impact of fire across the current season. As always the CFA is highly proactive in providing relevant and accessible information.

The CFA is calling on farmers and landholders to prevent the kind of conditions which can lead to haystack fires due to spontaneous combustion. Spontaneous combustion is caused by bacteria that grows within green or damp hay and produces a chemical reaction that causes hay to heat. This can be caused by incorrect baling practices or storage where water or rain is able to penetrate the stack. Be mindful not to bail green hay or hay that isn't fully cured.

When storing hay remember to ensure your roofs integrity to minimise leaking onto the hay. Do not stack bales too high or to the very underside of any roof. This promotes air flow and is another way to minimise moisture build up.

Another good tip is to store hay in multiple locations. This minimises losses in the event of a fire. Be sure to cut and maintain fuel breaks around stacks. Also avoid storing vehicles, machinery and valuable equipment in the same shed as hay. Never undertake works such as grinding and welding near stacks.

Remember to monitor your stacks using a range of methods. Use probes to monitor heat but don't rely solely on them. Check for rising steam, mould, unusual smells and slumping.



For further information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/hay-and-fire-safety/

End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520