

Haying

- have fire suppression capability immediately at hand and available, tanks, pumps hoses must be nearby at fields edge, this saved us in several situations of overheating belts etc starting fires and the resulting fire being quickly subdued while it was manageable, key phrase,
- have a backpack water sprayer available and have fire extinguisher attached to baler and/or tractor, fires must be contained quickly to be something we are "allowed" to or ought to think about fighting or something we can manage to control at all given the capacity available to subdue a fire at start only

Having a fire start during haying operations does not just happen to someone else, it can happen to you and the financial implications, and the liability is huge.

General preparedness

- be familiar with your fire suppression systems
- know what you have available to you and check all items to ensure working while you have time to figure it out not when fire threatens.
- get spare parts now
- ensure your pumps and generators are ready and are in good working order
- make sure all persons at ranch who may be asked to, know how to use all pieces of your fire protection equipment,
- everyone should know where items are
- everyone should know what various pieces and parts are called so that in an emergency when a part or a certain piece of equipment is required/requested, and they are asked to fetch it, they know what they are looking for and where to find it
- talk about your plan with family, workers, neighbors, write it out
- prepare your emergency tube
- follow the guidelines for your quick pack, go bag, and have it in readiness should you need to depart
- discuss muster points, leaving triggers and plans for evacuation should that be necessary,
- plan for the possible need to release or arrange for the movement of all livestock within ranges, upon fields or elsewhere
- ensure emergency contacts are in place and a community plan has been discussed
- if fire begins to threaten your ranch, well in advance, contact your regional agrologist to ensure that the paperwork required to receive funding is in place **prior** to a movement
- consider and arrange for suitable alternate locations for saddle horses and other realistically transportable animals and livestock
- ensure that you have means available and your place is set up to sustain livestock, waterers, feeders etc, should you have to exit for a couple of days.

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