



Nationwide® Risk Management

Promoting reliable in season grain dryer operation

Grain-drying equipment that's been poorly maintained or not operated properly can lead to fire, equipment damage and serious injuries. The following safety tips can help you and your workers have a safer and more productive grain drying season.



Educate employees on proper operation

Refer to the grain-dryer owner or operations manual. Carefully follow all recommendations, procedures, maintenance guidelines and safety information.

Utilize checklists and keep records

Use a **checklist** and record important data during start up and shut down: preseason, operating and fuel train inspection, cleaning, maintenance, and lubrication, as well as sensor and indicator testing should be documented.

Document operational norms

While a dryer will have slight variation in operation from day to day and year to year, it is important to document normal operating conditions like common temperature set points, amperage loads and throughput capacities. This information is useful during the start of the season to give operators a more reliable starting point to adjust from for the current year's operation. It is also useful to help recognize and diagnose problems and aids in the training of new operators.

Periodic shut-downs and cleanings are required

Follow all manufacturer recommendations and document date, time and duration of shutdowns and cleaning operations. It will be necessary to stop drying and clean the dryer from time to time in-season. Obtain specific instructions from the dryer manufacturer regarding when the dryer can and cannot be shut down full of grain.

Promote safe operating practices

Wear personal protective equipment, perform gas leak tests, conduct employee training, and establish procedures for dryer entry and automatic shutdown to help prevent injuries.

Know your service providers

Create a document that lists the names and phone numbers of the individuals you should call in case of emergency, service, or repair. The list should be complete with after-hour phone numbers.

Get organized

All documents and manuals should be organized and on file. Make duplicates of everything and store the extra copies at the drying station. Include maintenance checklists, records, and anything else that may be needed for future reference during drying season. Paper copies of some information is recommended as digital copies may not be available in the event of a power outage or catastrophic loss.

Recognize specific situations and circumstances that increase the possibility of a dryer fire

Excessively wet, trashy, or damaged grain, lighter test-weight grain, very cold ambient air temperatures, high relative humidity, high drying temps and long periods of drying are potential fire hazards.

Recognize the human element

Operation over holidays, before or after seasonal sporting events, through hunting seasons and even over weekends can increase the possibility of operator error or fire, particularly if a “fill-in” operator is running the dryer when the normal operator is away.

Plan for potential fire situations

Create a **plan** for the routine situation, for specific emergencies as well as general guidelines for more unexpected events. Make sure fire extinguishers are available and operators are trained to use them. It is also helpful to have as many workers as possible trained to assist in “dumping” grain from the dryer grain columns should a fire occur.

Help those who help you

Invite the local fire department representatives to your site so they can familiarize themselves to your operation. Freely discuss potential hazards and encourage dialog related to improvements to existing conditions that can make responding to an incident safer.



For assistance with risk management and safety resources contact RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.