

# THE SAFETY LEADER

Prevention is the Key

Darlington Mutual  
Insurance Company

**Blown in hay can be  
even more dangerous  
than stored bales**

**Make a probe and check  
your hay regularly!**

## Important Temps for hay

### Temp in Degrees F

230	<b>Combustion!</b>
210 215	Just add air for <b>Ignition</b>
190	<b>Eminent danger</b> Call 911 Then remove hay
170	<b>Check Hourly</b>
150	<b>Hazardous</b> Check Reg. Every 4 hours, MAX.
145 130	<b>Common Range</b> temps may rise & fall slowly Check twice a day
100 90	<b>Sweating Range</b> materials above will get wet and may cause a problem. Check every 24 hours
70	<b>Acceptable Range</b>

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## Proper Hay Storage

The improper storing of Hay has long been given as a reason for fire damage to a farm outbuilding. But spontaneous combustion is a very preventable cause of loss.

Hay in a mow must be **less than 25% moisture** and stacked in a way to allow air circulation / ventilation. Never allow hay to be stacked against the walls

or all the way to the ceiling. Blown hay does not allow for circulation and should not be used as a hay storage method. Hay should be stacked in a separate or less expensive structure, such as a pole building, used to store only bales of hay. Large bales should be stacked no more than three high with sufficient space between the bales to allow for proper air circulation. All incandescent

lights in any building with hay, straw or dusty conditions should be globed for fire safety.

A farmer can make an effective hay-temperature probe from 10 feet of 3/4" pipe or conduit.

Pinch one end of

the tube closed and rivet it shut. Then grind the end to a point. Drill 3 or 4-3/16" holes near the point, which will allow the thermometer to get a decent

**Never blow hay  
into a building.  
Dust and combustibles associated with  
this process are  
easily ignited.**

reading when inserted into the probe. Attach a thermometer to a string or wire to insert into the probe. Avoid using thermometers with mercury, if they break they will contaminate the hay. Hay stack temperatures should be monitored for six weeks after harvest.

Hay should not be stored in, near or with expensive farm buildings or machinery.

