



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Storage Practices: Hogged Fuel Storage Piles

No. FP-2009-13 March 3, 2009

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to contrast the model code requirements for hogged fuel storage.

The pile of wood waste in the photograph is called “hogged fuel,” and consists of sawdust, shavings, and yard waste mixed with the bark and trim from sawmilling and related raw wood handling operations. Hog fuel generally is wet, usually in excess of 50 percent by weight, but given the right conditions it is highly susceptible to spontaneous combustion from biological decomposition.



This pile of hog fuel is susceptible to spontaneous heating under the right conditions.

The model fire codes provide differing regulations on how hog fuel must be stored. The following table is a summary of some of the differences.

Condition	International Fire Code®	NFPA® 1, Uniform Fire Code®
Maximum pile size	60 ft x 300 ft x 500 ft (18 m x 90 m x 150 m)	60 ft x 300 ft x 500 ft (18 m x 90 m x 150 m)
Pile size increase allowed?	When approved by code official if additional fire protection features provided	30-foot (9 m) roads if pile exceeds 500 ft (150 m)
Separation between piles or exposures	Approved fire apparatus access road	30-foot (9 m) roads if pile exceeds 500 ft (150 m)
Fire Access Roads	Within 150 ft (45 m) of all portions of storage facility	Includes one to the top of the pile
Storage surface	Not specified	Reasonably level, solid ground, or paved with blacktop, concrete, or hard-surface material
Automatic fire protection	Sprinklers in conveyor tunnels and combustible enclosures under piles	Not specified
Material-handling equipment for moving product during fires	Required	Required

Always refer to your legally-adopted fire code for additional and specific requirements. For additional information, refer to *International Fire Code*®, Chapter 19, or *NFPA*® 1, *Uniform Fire Code*®, Chapter 31.



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