



# UNDERWRITING ALERT

**RAM Mutual Insurance Company**

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## Drying and Storage of Grain

*Don't let the wet harvest conditions "shut you down" due to a dryer fire.*



Dryer fires are often the result of poor maintenance and cleaning. Preventive maintenance is extremely important to reduce the chance of a fire or break-down. Check daily for fines and debris build-up in the dryer. Shut down the drying unit and clean out accumulated fines as necessary. Place a 10 lb. or larger ABC dry-chemical fire extinguisher near the dryer and familiarize the operator with its proper use. Carry a cell phone and have emergency telephone numbers available. Keep the dryer manual nearby.

### **Proper dryer maintenance procedures are important to help insure a successful operation. The following is a pre-season dryer maintenance checklist:**

- Clean out any leftover grain and debris from last year's operation.
- Check burners visually for debris and make sure all burner-orifices are clean.
- Have gas pressure regulators and LP gas vaporizers checked by trained gas company personnel for proper operating pressures and leaks.
- Check fan housing and fan blades for dirt accumulation. Make sure drain holes in the bottom of the fan housing are kept clean.
- Check for wear on belts and adjust tension, ensuring all guards are in place.
- Check all bearings to make sure the mounting bolts are tight and the collars are secured. Lubricate, if needed.
- Inspect and repair electrical controls, switches, and frayed or damaged cords as necessary. Verify that thermostats are controlling air temperatures accurately.

### **Flame color is a good indicator of proper burner operation.**

- Blue flame indicates complete combustion.
- Long yellow flame indicates poor combustion. Clean burner and check pressure regulators and inlet air adjustment.
- Burner 'pops' when gas is shut off - foreign material may be partially plugging orifices. Also, check inlet air adjustment.

### **Notice Concerning Storage Bins**

**When using aeration fans during winter months, unlatch the roof entry door.**

1. Operating aeration fans during below freezing temperatures forces condensation to rise to the bin roof and plug the vents. Pressure then builds inside the bin forcing the roof to bulge or expand outward.
2. To prevent possible grain bin roof damage, ensure that all roof vents are open and unobstructed.
3. Do not operate the aeration fan if it is possible that the roof vents could ice up.

