

FOREST EQUIPMENT FIRE ALERT!!



The forestry industry has experienced a high number of logging equipment fires. Major financial loss has resulted from these fires, and in some cases personal injuries have occurred. Efforts continue to identify the factors contributing to such fires, so that preventive measures can be taken. In 2001, TEAM was formed to address these concerns. TEAM consists of representatives from logging companies, equipment manufacturers, equipment dealers, fire prevention specialists and insurance companies. The first TEAM action is developing nationwide Forest Equipment Fire Awareness and Education Programs.

Training equipment operators to develop good cleaning and maintenance habits and to recognize potential fire hazards will reduce fire losses.

The majority of forest equipment fires are preventable. Most fires are caused by:

- Accumulation of debris around exhaust systems.
- Damaged or modified electrical, fuel, and hydraulic system components.
- Build-up of oil, grease, and fuel from leaks and spills.
- Accumulation of debris around rotating shafts.
- Overheated brakes.

The key to reducing forestry equipment fire is to CLEAN, INSPECT and REPAIR.

T.E.A.M.

Timber Equipment Applications Management

(over)

Routine steps necessary to reduce the risk of fire:

- **Use only operators who have been trained** to use the logging equipment.
- **Clean engine and exhaust system** of accumulated debris at least once a day.
- **Perform inspections**, routine maintenance and service as recommended by manufacturer.
 - **Daily and prior to starting the machine**, inspect battery cables, electrical wiring, hydraulic/fuel line connections and components.
 - **Repair or replace** any defective components.
- **Fire Fighting Equipment and Systems:**
 - Train operators to use fire extinguishers and suppression systems.
 - Maintain at least one charged and operable fire extinguisher in each machine.
 - Maintain onboard fire suppression system as recommended by system manufacturer.
- **Clean Unit Often!**
 - Remove side shields to clean and remove accumulated debris, oil, grease, spilled fuel, etc. from engine and transmission compartments at least once a week.
 - Drop belly pans and steam clean or pressure wash unit at least once a month.
- **Clean and regularly service** the engine and hydraulic cooling systems to avoid overheating.
- **Before fueling, shut off engine.** Do not smoke within 50 feet of fueling areas.
- **Maintain all protective shields**, screens, belly pans, and covers.
- **Immediately clean up** any fuel, oil, and grease spills.
- **Do not transport flammable liquids**, i.e., gasoline, etc., on the machine.
- **At Shutdown:**
 - Park equipment at least 50 feet away from other equipment and in an area cleared of excess ground debris.
 - Turn off ignition and battery disconnect switch, if available on unit.
 - Observe machines for 30 minutes to ensure proper cool down.
 - Remove all keys, lock equipment and fuel cap.
 - Remove hydraulic pressure by grounding blades, grapples, booms, etc.
- **Prior to using a cutting or welding device**, disconnect the battery, clean the machine and, if necessary, wet the work area down with water. Keep a charged and operable fire extinguisher present during this work.