

Gaines & Critzer, Ltd  
P.O. Box 35742  
Richmond VA 23236  
804 330 8181, [www.gainescritzer.com](http://www.gainescritzer.com)

To: Logging Equipment Clients  
Subject: 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2013

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you all for business and the opportunity to continue servicing your logging insurance needs in 2013.

We usually do not think of Jan – Mar in Virginia as fire season. While the calendar may not indicate a fire season for this period, our statistical history does! We've experienced the majority of our annual fire losses to equipment the first quarter of the year for the past three years.

All can guess as to the reasons but we really do not know of any unique characteristics of this period over say the summer. As a matter of fact, the summer period is normally dry and hot; maybe we are more aware of equipment fire risk during hot, dry periods vs. the winter/early spring?

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that your equipment will burn in Jan, Feb, Mar just like Jul, Aug, and Sept. Please do not let your fire prevention guard down, continue performing:

- A. Routine preventive maintenance, replace hoses, check fittings (fix the leaks when discovered), secure wiring, check for abrasions.
- B. Clean equipment, move chippers and debarkers at least weekly or as needed to remove debris pile
- C. Perform equipment start up and shut down daily walk around, remain on job min 20 minutes after equipment shut down
- D. Keep fully charged fire extinguishers in equipment and larger Cold Fire extinguishers at log deck
- E. Be aware of potential vandalism/fires, introduce yourself to immediate neighbors, hand out your business card.

Thank you and have a prosperous 2013!

# EXTREME FIRE HAZARD CONDITIONS

*Hot, extremely dry, wind, all combine to make your current logging environment a potential fire hazard. Please discuss fire prevention with all your employees.*

*Here are a few tips gained from actual feedback from you:*

- a. Smoking policy? One client requires employees to keep a half full 20 oz. bottle for proper cigarette disposal.*
- b. Shut down chippers for the day by mid-afternoon. Monitor, inspect prior to leaving for day. Also blow off, clean daily. Good idea to keep a power washer on site just to spray down daily.*
- c. Caution with saw heads striking rocks, binding w/debris, setting woods on fire.*
- d. Understand the prevailing wind direction, orient chippers, self-contained delimiters, etc so wind blowing debris away from fire hazard areas of equipment.*
- e. Keep you Fellerbuncher working in the same area, no jumping around, will make any woods start up fires (smoke) more noticeable.*
- f. Be careful dragging metal or even large wooden objects with equipment (steel bridges, matts, etc).*
- g. Remain on job site min. of 30 minutes after equipment shutdown, observe.*
- h. Notify adjacent residence of your operation; give them business card w/phone #.*
- i. Keep extinguishers fully charged and in each piece of equipment, larger ones on job site.*

*I welcome any additional comments. Here's a real example just called in today (6-29-12): operator was moving metal bridge (dragging) at end of day. Evidently struck rock in dry needles, smoldered, woods caught fire after employees exited operation for the day, adjacent land owner smelled smoke, called insured, burned 10 acres of clear cut but arrived in time to save a chipper, loader, skidder, cutter as fire was within yards of the deck. Luck, yes but also communications were in place.*

*Please conduct a tailgate meeting this Monday (July2) and discuss.*

*Thanks,*

Scott Critzer

*Gaines & Critzer, Ltd.  
P.O. Box 35742  
RIC VA 23235  
804 330 8181*

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804 330 8181

Summer, 2011  
96 degrees in the shade, Hot, real Hot!

Summer logging creates unique heat challenges for both personnel and equipment. You know the specifics related to personnel but what about your in woods equipment?

Your logging equipment must operate within manufacturer's operating temperature guidelines. The harsh summer environment makes this a challenge. Dust and debris buildup (it takes less in summer to impact temps) along with hot weather places added stress on your equipment and the related cooling systems. Please do your part to help your equipment remain relatively cool.

Frequently remove dust and debris from all side panels, radiator and any other areas requiring air movement for cooling. Drop the belly pans, accumulated debris not only prevents cooling but also stores heat. Also, do not neglect the felling head. Debris build-up results in unnecessary wear and heat generation (equipment and woods fire hazard). Low level summer foliage accumulates easily within the sawhead, your operator must remove as soon as accumulations begin.

Please remind your equipment operators to:

- a. Pay particular attention to dust/debris build-up and frequently remove and clean
- b. Continue to check pressure hoses, electrical lines for wear/rot/rubbing
- c. Perform pre start and post shut down walk around, use sight and smell
- d. Keep extinguishers fully charged. Dry powder, remove and shake 2-3 times mo.
- e. Keep larger wetting agent (Cold Fire or similar) loaded stream extinguishers on the job site at all times
- f. Make sure personnel remain on job site for min. of 30 minutes after equipment is shut down (cool down period).

Thank you very much for passing this info along to your employees. We greatly appreciate your business and please, be safe!

Regards,

Scott Critzer

