

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



Malfunction of track roller on harvesting machine

Number: 115

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Background

On 9 November, a track roller bearing on a harvesting machine seized causing the track to run against the track side rail. There was increased risk of fire with tinder dry debris on the ground. Fortunately, there was little heat within the tracks. A nearby prescribed burn meant that smoke was still present in the area which could have made detecting a fire within the coupe more difficult.

Key Points

- Fire units were readily available on site and the machine operators remained on-site for 1 hour after they ceased operating in case of fire.
- Important that maintenance personnel inspect track gear for wear during routine machine servicing.
- Reminder that daily machine pre-start checks should include a check that the machine is clean of combustible material, particularly the spaces between the engine and engine guards.
- Weekly inspections should include a check of fire units which should be parked within the prescribed distance.
- If machines are being tracked some distance or at speed, then tracks should be checked prior to entry into areas that are combustible.
- Reminder to remain on site for one hour after machine operations have ceased for the day to monitor for any accidental workplace ignitions.
- Important to ensure continuous two-way communication to enable immediate emergency response in the event of a fire.
- Please refer to Contractor Procedure F1 Fire Requirements.