

# CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



## Plant & equipment housekeeping

Number: 57

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### Background

The Fire season is well and truly upon us, and we urge all contractors to ensure employees are maintaining good housekeeping with respect to build up of debris on machines.

With the potential to become an ignition source, outcomes could be catastrophic.

A machine fire reported on the 6th of January 2022, was caused by debris build-up within the engine bay of a harvester.

Fortunately, it was identified early, fire suppression initiated with no damage to plant or loss of resource.

### Key Points

- A reminder to remain alert to the first signs of fire coming from a machine or within your work zone.
- Review emergency protocols and equipment to ensure you can respond appropriately.
- Check:
  - ❖ All automatic fire suppression units are serviced and ready to use.
  - ❖ All fire extinguishers are serviced and ready to use.
  - ❖ Trailer or truck mounted fire units are ready to operate, pumps and motors work and water tanks full.
- Regularly remove debris build up on machines, especially around engine bays and exhaust systems.
- Appropriately dispose of oily rags, containers, etc regularly
- Remember **LACES**:
  - ❖ **Lookout**- have someone monitor work area for smoke or changes in weather
  - ❖ **Awareness**- maintain awareness at all times of your work area and any restrictions in place for the day.
  - ❖ **Communications**- maintain communications at all times
  - ❖ **Escape routes** – know what routes you are going to take in emergency
  - ❖ **Safety Zones** – Know where the fire safe areas are in your area