

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



Plant & equipment fire

Number: 58

Issued: 03/02/2022

Background

On Friday, 28th January 2022 an FPC contractor had a machine fire confined to the plant's engine bay.

Onboard fire suppression quickly extinguished the fire out and possibly saved the contractor a hefty repair bill or loss of machine.

It is believed that a hydraulic leak on a hot surface is what may have caused the initial ignition. The machine had undergone a pre-start inspection and blow down the morning prior to the incident.

Key Points

- Remain alert to the first signs of fire coming from a machine or within your work zone.
- Call 000 if the fire moves or has potential to grow beyond the machine itself or hasn't been extinguished within 3-5 minutes by onboard fire suppression system
- 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 appropriately located, ready to operate, pumps and motors work and water tanks full.
 - Contain ignition sources – practice regular housekeeping on forestry machines.

- Remember **ADVISE**:

Alert – Immediately alert someone who can contact others for help if the fire escalates.

Defend – If safe, take action to suppress the fire in-line with employee training.

Vocalise – Maintain continuous communication with work colleagues or fire managers.

Identify – Identify safe escape routes in-case the fire escalates.

Safety – Identify safety zones where you can go if the fire escalates.

Equipment – Ensure you are wearing personal protective equipment at all times during fire suppression.