

Wood Fibre Storage Safety Bulletin

Mobile Equipment & Fire Risk Management

There is an increased risk of fire when storing wood fibre. If wood fibre piles are managed with mobile equipment, care must be taken to ensure the risk of fire is effectively addressed. In order to reduce the risk of fire, at a minimum the following best practices should be considered.



Mobile Equipment Fire Prevention Best Practices:

- ✓ **Training**
 - Ensure only properly trained personnel operate mobile equipment. Prepare detailed written operating and emergency procedures and have personnel periodically retrained and/or evaluated in these procedures. Training in emergency procedures will minimize damage through proper response.
- ✓ **Approved automatic extinguishing systems installed on engine and hydraulic components**
 - Due to extreme service conditions, a thorough inspection and maintenance program of fixed extinguishing systems is essential to ensure proper operation. As such, inspect the general condition of the extinguishing system at least weekly; inspect the dry chemical for free flow capability (i.e. no caking) at least monthly; and establish a quarterly maintenance program, including checking for free movement of the actuator mechanism. For specific details on recommended inspection and maintenance procedures, refer to the system manufacturer's inspection and maintenance manual.
- ✓ **Protected wiring, air operated starting, enclosed batteries**
 - Reduce risk of sparks & related fire ignition.
- ✓ **Water cooled manifold and muffler**
 - Reduction in surface temperature will reduce fire risk.
- ✓ **Frequent inspection, maintenance and cleaning**
 - Regular inspection of mobile equipment is critical.
 - Regularly inspect & clean equipment of wood fibre dust.
 - Ensure inspection and maintenance procedures are documented.
 - Visually check hydraulic fluid and fuel lines daily. Check fittings for tightness weekly. Pressure test hydraulic lines annually, replace flexible hydraulic lines periodically on a programmed basis, or whenever necessary as indicated by inspection or test. Use non-ignitable cleaners where possible.
 - Periodically clean equipment of all grease, oil, and other combustible material. Use non-ignitable solvents where possible. The service interval will depend on the nature of the operation and the rate at which material accumulates.
 - When changing equipment types or models potential modifications to inspection, cleaning and maintenance requirements must be considered.
- ✓ **Never leave mobile equipment unattended or parked in storage area**
 - Park equipment in a safe location when not in use.
- ✓ **Reversing engine fan**
 - Reversing engine fan can aid in minimizing wood dust/fibre accumulation within the engine compartment.
- ✓ **Extra manual extinguishers**
 - Have additional extinguishers available on the mobile equipment & within the storage area.
- ✓ **Ceramic coating or insulation on turbos**
 - Coatings will reduce surface temperatures and the risk of fire.
- ✓ **Interlock on hydraulic systems**
 - Interlock will allow the flow of hydraulic fluid to be stopped effectively in the event of a leak in the hydraulic system.

