



ToolBox Talks from the SWPA Safety Committee

Equipment Fire



Woods Equipment Fire Protection Tips

Professional loggers understand the investment they have in their equipment and what that investment means in terms of daily production. Equipment fires are both dangerous and expensive. It takes only a few minutes per day to reduce the risk of your investment going up in smoke! The potential for woods equipment fires can be reduced with daily, weekly, and monthly fire prevention measures.

Most fire hazards are created by:

1. Accumulation of debris inside mechanical compartments.
2. Buildup of oil, grease, and fuel from leaks and spills.
3. Damaged electrical system wiring and components.
4. Overheating brakes.
5. Heavy buildup of flammable materials around rotating drive shafts.



Follow these routine fire prevention maintenance steps to protect logging equipment:

1. Perform daily and routine maintenance and service as recommended by manufacturers.
2. Use only qualified operators who have been trained to use fire suppression equipment.
3. **Clean often:**
 - o Clean out engine and mechanical compartments of accumulated debris at least once a day. During heavy leaf fall or dry periods, clean as often as necessary.
 - o Drop belly pan and remove side shields to clean and remove accumulated leaves, debris, oil, grease, spilled fuel, etc., from engine and transmission compartments at least once a week.
 - o Pressure wash unit at least once a month.



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SWPA SAFETY COMMITTEE and

Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members.
Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan.
Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements
may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety
plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, NIOSH, FRA, Safety Talk Ideas.com





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4. Inspect battery cables and connections, electrical wiring, connections, and components at least weekly. **Repair or replace** any defects immediately.
5. At shutdown, engage battery disconnect switch if available on unit. When parked, maintain at least 50 feet between machines in an area cleared of excess ground debris to minimize the spread of fire.
6. Maintain and regularly service the engine and hydraulic cooling system to avoid overheating.
7. Remove flammable items from operator's compartment.
8. Do not transport flammable liquids on the machine, such as gas, oil, diesel, etc.
9. Before fueling, shut off engine. Do not smoke within 50 feet of fueling areas.
10. Observe machines for at least 15-20 minutes after shutdown to ensure proper cooldown.
11. Maintain all protective shields, screens, belly pans, and covers to reduce the accumulation of flammable debris inside machine compartments.
12. Immediately clean up fuel, oil, and grease spills.
13. Prior to using a cutting or welding device, clean the machine and, if necessary, wet the work area down with water. Have fire extinguishers present during this work.
14. Maintain an approved, charged, and operable fire extinguisher(s).
15. Place company name and phone number on equipment.



SAFETY MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

TOPIC: _____ DATE: _____

LOCATION: _____ TRAINER: _____

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