

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself  
“Could it happen here?”

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

### LOADER FIRE

As a loader operator gathered rejected logs at the reject bin he smelled smoke and looked behind and noticed a spark. He then radioed the mill and headed to the fire pump house to hose down what he initially thought was a smolder.

Large amounts of smoke billowed out the back of the loader and eventually developed into a full fire. The loader was parked in a safe spot away from any structures. The fire department was called to extinguish the fire. While the loader suffered catastrophic damage, no one was injured.

The Fire Investigator concluded that a hydraulic leak developed and was ignited by the turbo, and intensified by the reverse fan.

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- If you suspect a fire, immediately park in the nearest safe spot and turn off the vehicle. Only attempt to extinguish a fire if it's small in an initial stage.
- Consider developing safe procedures for mobile equipment blowdown. Items to consider are frequency of blowdown and minimizing the potential for wood dust explosion.
- If mobile equipment is used in dusty areas (wood dust) consider blowing out the engine compartment at 4 hour intervals or at intervals to keep the compartment clear of combustibles.
- The mobile equipment pre-use inspection should include a visual check of the engine compartment for the buildup of combustibles.



## Important Take Away

The buildup of combustible material in mobile equipment can cause catastrophic fires or explosions.

**MAG**  
Manufacturing Advisory Group



BC Forest Safety

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