

# FIBRE PILE MANAGEMENT

WHEN FIBRE IS STORED IN PILES, SELF-HEATING AND COMBUSTION CAN OCCUR OVER TIME. THE SMOULDERING CAN CONTINUE FOR MONTHS AND CAN PRODUCE CAVERNS (FIRE POCKETS) IN THE FIBRE THAT CAN COLLAPSE WHEN WEIGHT IS PUT ON THE PILE. THESE GAPS ARE LIKE A FURNACE AND CAN REACH EXTREME TEMPERATURES.

PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN ON TOP OF FIBRE PILES.

- MONITOR FIBRE PILE TEMPERATURES IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS
- SIGNS OF A SELF-HEATING PROCESS IS A STICKY AND IRRITATING SMELL
- STEAM RISING FROM THE PILE IN WINTER INDICATES SELF-HEATING



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is good business

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## **FIBRE PILE SELF-HEATING:**

- When fresh bio-mass is reduced in size and stored outdoors in large piles, a number of biological, physical and chemical processes take place.
- Respiration of plant cells and microbial growth leads to the generation of heat, deep within the pile.

## **SIGN OF SELF HEATING:**

- The first sign of an on-going self-heating process is often a sticky, irritating smell
- Steam or smoke rising from the pile may indicate a fire pocket below
- Rises in temperature from temperature probes indicates self-heating
- A FLIR camera can aid in identifying hot spots in your fibre pile

## **KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE:**

- Follow all established safe work procedures regarding fibre pile storage.
- If you suspect the pile is self-heating, don't go on top, instead seek help and advice from your supervisor.
- If you suspect the fibre pile is self-heating, check to see if your safe work procedures follow a process. If there is no procedure in place, ask your supervisor for help.
- Use a trained fire brigade or local fire department to safely expose and extinguish fibre pile smoulders or fires.