

MOBILE EQUIPMENT - HYDRAULIC HOSE FAILURE

Leaks from high-pressure hydraulic lines are not only messy but also pose a significant hazard.

Not only do leaks contaminate the environment, they also cause slip and fall hazards, fire dangers and can result in skin burns which, under high pressure, can penetrate the skin.

HOSE FAILURE

- KNOW THE CAUSES OF HYDRAULIC HOSE FAILURES.
- WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMIZE HOSE FAILURE?
- WHAT TO DO IF THE HOSE FAILS WHILE OPERATING MOBILE EQUIPMENT.



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

HYDRAULIC HOSE FAILURE



CAUSES OF HYDRAULIC HOSE FAILURES

Hydraulic hose failure is most commonly caused by abrasion, poor routing, high temperatures, tube erosion, bent hoses near fittings, fluid incompatibility and improper assembly. Hose failures containing hydraulic fluid are serious. When they burst, the hydraulic fluid can spray out and burn your skin, even penetrate it, leading to infections, and in some cases, amputations and even death.

HOW TO MINIMIZE HOSE FAILURE

- Perform a mobile equipment pre-shift inspection daily without fail.
- When performing a pre-trip inspection, pay close attention to hydraulic hoses at main wear points. Inspect hoses at abrasive areas, pivot and bend points, high-temperature areas and near fittings. Look for kinks and buckling especially at bend sections.
- If any issues are identified, add them to the pre-use inspection document and take extra effort to inform the heavy duty mechanic of the hydraulic hose problem(s).
- If you are unsure of the location of the hose failure(s), ask the heavy duty mechanic to point out them out and explain the probable cause.

HOSE FAILURE WHILE OPERATING MOBILE EQUIPMENT

- If you suspect the hydraulic hose is leaking, shut the mobile equipment off immediately.
- Hydraulic fluid leaks can often be smelled before they are seen. If you are unaware of what hot hydraulic oil smells like, ask for a demonstration.
- There is a high-risk of fire if hot hydraulic oil sprays over a high temperature spot on your mobile equipment. If a fire occurs, shut the equipment down and leave it outdoors, preferably in the middle of the yard. Stay well away from the mobile equipment and seek help immediately. If it is unsafe to access the fire extinguisher from your mobile equipment, seek help from another mobile equipment operator and use their extinguisher.
- **IF THE EQUIPMENT IS ON FIRE - DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE IT TO A FIRE HOSE OR OTHER FIRE SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT.**

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