

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Mobile Equipment Fire

Before transporting a piece of mobile equipment to the repair shop for maintenance, two heavy-duty mechanics completed a pre-trip vehicle inspection. Following the inspection, they started the engine to warm it up before they moved it.

As the machine was being transferred, it was less than 300 yards away from the mill when a mechanic heard a hydraulic alarm and saw smoke coming from the vehicle with flames coming out of the engine compartment.

Workers quickly used the fire suppression system including extinguishers, hoses and the on-site fire truck to fully extinguish the fire.

It is believed the incident was triggered by a malfunctioning hydraulic hose, which leaked fluid onto hot engine parts. The machine's operator had reported a leaky hose issue shortly before the fire outbreak occurred.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Investigate high-pressure washing as a possible cause. Recent reported incidents have indicated mobile equipment fires have occurred shortly after high-pressure washing. While high-pressure washing may leave engine compartments looking pristine, high-pressure washing could damage hoses, fittings, and/or wiring.
- Ensure equipment is regularly cleaned using low pressure water equipment, mild cleaning agents or low pressure air after engine has cooled.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

When cleaning engine bays, it's recommended to use low-pressure water with a mild detergent where possible.

When using water or air to clear debris, make sure the engine has cooled.

