



JNL Safety Alert #050

Incident: Property Damage

Date: 19/09/18

Reference: 20180919-GF-DAM-001



Details:

On the 19th of September 2018, at approximately 3.00pm a hired excavator processor caught fire on a skid site in Waituna Forest, Kiwi Rd. The fire started behind the cab of the excavator and was not noticed by the operator until the fire was well alight; the operator was able to escape the cab without injury. A number of forest engineering contractors arrived shortly after and assisted the people on site using fire extinguishers. The crew on site attempted to smother the blaze with an excavator which slowed the rate of spread. The fire was eventually extinguished using a fire engine which arrived on site approximately 1hr and 30minutes after the fire was notified.

Significant Learning:

Any plant bought into the forest needs to be inspected prior to starting work, this may have identified the problem prior to work commencing. Weather conditions at the time of the incident were wet with high humidity; therefore machine fires can start at any time. Anecdotal industry evidence suggests that this make and model of machine is susceptible to machine fires.

What's required?

- Machines must be thoroughly inspected before being put into service especially if they are in a used condition
- Keep radiators clean
- Keep engine and radiators clear of debris through regular cleaning.
- Check that battery terminals are tight and clean
- Check all internal hose fitting especially around high heat areas and replace if required.
- All Machinery to be equipped with adequate and in test Fire Extinguishers:
 - 9kg Dry Powder
 - 9lt FoamAs a minimum
- Wash machines out on a regular basis (4 monthly as a minimum).