

Fine Fuel Debris Ignited



What Happened:

The skidder operator noticed smoke coming out of the skidder arch. The work light had heated up in the arch and started to melt the plastic casing the light is in, which also caused some loose debris to start smoking.

The skidder operator promptly took appropriate action by immediately turning the machine off and used the fire extinguisher to spray the area where the smoke was coming from.

What was the core issue:

- Loose accumulated debris had not been cleared from the machine's protective housing which contains the light.
- Electrical failure resulted in residual debris ignition.

What must happen to control the situation:

We are currently in the middle of the 2023/2024 fire season and adherence to HB Fire Plan is required by all contractors.

- Weekly debris removal checks must be carried out on machines, especially those who are working in the cutover. Increased wash downs are required. (Current Code Blue & Yellow).
- Maintenance checks on machines, check there are no exposed, damaged, or frayed wires which could cause a short circuit.
- In this instance, the light was taken out and they sealed the wiring and plug.