

# Safety Alert

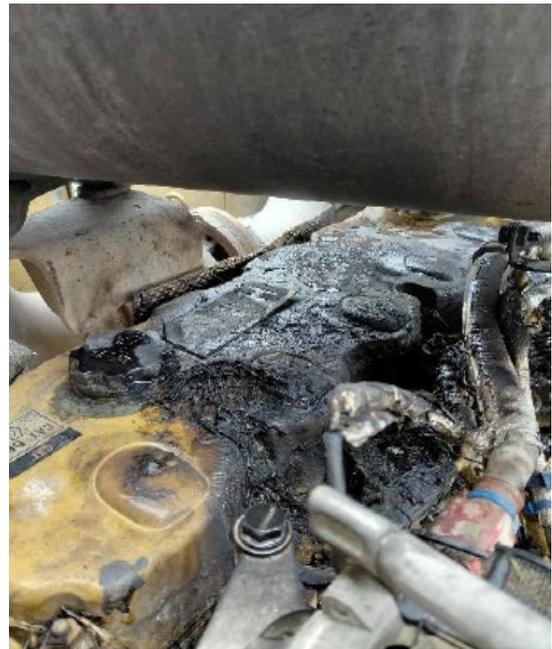
Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

20 February 2026

## Fire in loader engine bay

A loader operator on a Cat 972 Wheel Loader noticed the smell of smoke in the cab. As this worsened, the operator drove to the workshop where a hose was used to douse a small smouldering bird's nest in the engine bay.

There was heat damage to several sections of wiring and sensors in the engine bay, as well as the rocker cover and alternator.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 7 years show 3% of incidents (198 incidents) have resulted from fire.

### You need to ensure that:

1. Pre-start checks are completed on all mobile plant, including opening the engine bay completely to check for any signs of birds' nests.
2. When returning from a break, check for any bird activity near your machine, as some birds can build a nest in 45 min.
3. You check behind guards, in air filter ducts etc. for signs of bird activity as birds prefer warm, sheltered spots.

**Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.**