

NZ Safety Alert

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

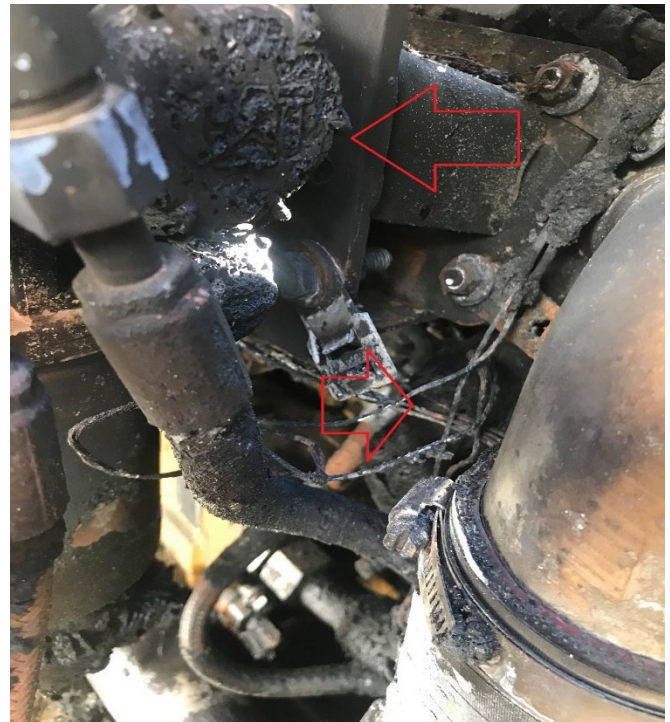
25 March 2022

Fire on Front-end Loader

A fire started suddenly in the engine of a front-end loader at a quarry. Several extinguishers were used in an attempt to put the fire out, but ultimately the fire brigade extinguished it.

Fire damage made it impossible to ascertain the exact cause however:

- there were signs of a bird's nest beside the intercooler pipe;
- the fire was concentrated around the fuel water separator and could have resulted from fuel or hydraulic leaks. None had been reported prior to the incident;
- it is possible electrical wiring had rubbed through and shorted out, however fire damage destroyed most of the engine harness therefore it was impossible to identify the exact location where the fire started.



[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm show 3% (145) of all incidents result from fires.

You need to ensure that:

1. Maintenance checks on mobile equipment include clearing any obstructions that could start or fuel a fire e.g. birds' nest.
2. Workers are vigilant in reporting leaks of any nature and that these are investigated and repaired promptly.
3. You have procedures for dealing with fires, and workers are familiar with such procedures.

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