

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978

SAFETY ALERT
SURFACE EQUIPMENT FIRE HAZARDS

There have been five reported surface mine equipment fires since January 3, 2012. Though no one was injured in these accidents, history shows that fatalities do occur due to surface equipment fires. The Best Practices listed below should be used as a guide to reduce the potential for injuries and fatalities due to equipment fires.



BEST PRACTICES

- Perform thorough pre-operational checks and repair all defects affecting safety before operating equipment.
- Look for fuel, coolant, and oil leaks and have them repaired before operating equipment. Take equipment out of service if a fluid leak is observed during operation.
- Examine all hoses, fittings, and gaskets and replace according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Remove accumulations of oil and grease using solvents or degreasers formulated to clean equipment or parts.
- Check fire extinguishers and fire suppression systems and maintain in proper operating condition.
- Install shrouds or shields to prevent flammable fluids from contacting hot components through hose failures.
- Know where all gas transmission lines are located and do not perform work near them without adequate measures taken to prevent contacting them.



REMEMBER:
Safety depends upon what you
DO or DON'T DO.