



Gyro Machine - Fire Incident

CAGC SAFETY ALERT

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Safety Alert

08-03

On October 22, 2003 our company was using a mulcher to clear line on a Saskatchewan program. The Gyro-Machine was cutting over a sharp hill and hit a rock. The blades from the machine created sparks and caused a fire to ignite the tall grass and lower brush.

Our environmental monitor spotted the fire. The monitor then radioed for help, alerting the field crew to the situation. The crew supervisor shut down the work operation, organized the men and had the crew assist in fire fighting. The crew was asked to bring shovels, water cans, axes and any other fire fighting tools they had access to.

Our drill push stopped by a local farmyard and gathered some pails for water and a few extra tools for groundwork. The personnel on the hill hauled water by five-gallon jugs. The fire was put under control in fifteen minutes. To ensure the fire was completely out, one of the drillers made his way to his rig, approximately 6 miles away. When he returned, the rig was used to haul water to the fire site. The area was sprayed until soaked, using 7 loads of water, ensuring there were no "hot spots".

Contact was made with the Boyd Operations Manager and the Client Representative to inform them of the incident.

The local fire marshal was also contacted. The Fire Marshall, Client Representative, and Crew Supervisor inspected the site, ensuring the fire was completely extinguished.

The landowner was contacted. His concerns were minimal.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

1. Corrective action towards the crew - nothing, the situation was handled very well;
2. Preventative action - although this is not a common occurrence, this is a job related hazard and preventing such an incident in dry weather would be difficult. More attention should be paid to the surrounding area the gyro is working, especially in dry conditions;
3. Corrective action towards the Gyro - proper firefighting equipment on all gyros. (Example: a shovel, an axe and some sort of water based fire can);
4. Corrective action by field personnel - a line check 10 to 15 minutes behind the Gyro machine;
5. Corrective action – all programs should have a fire box on site, especially with dry conditions. Time would have been saved if fire-fighting equipment had been more accessible.