

SWP-7.3 Emergency – Fire Fighting (Mobile Plant)

Authorised persons: This procedure must only be attempted if the Fire Rescue Service (FRS) / Fire Brigade requests assistance and agrees to this procedure being enacted (once shown to the FRS in full) and additionally only with express permission of the Depot manager and / or the General Manager.

The Fire Rescue Service will possess directional control at all times until the fire is fully extinguished and management and control is handed back to the depot manager by the FRS commander.

Only persons who are competent and authorised, by acceptance of this procedure and successful completion of the competency testing for this procedure can perform the activities outlined.

1. RISKS & HAZARDS:

- Fire;
- Burns;
- Smoke inhalation;
- Contact with mobile plant and machinery.

2. PERSONS AFFECTED:

- Employees;
- Fire brigade personnel;
- Others in the vicinity.

3. SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO BE USED:

(in addition to mandatory personal protective equipment)

- PPE as stipulated by the task SWP or Method statement or as defined in the task risk assessment;
- See SWP-1.10 *General – A Guide to PPE*
- Respirators (where required);
- 2 way radio.

4. PROCEDURE:

The procedure outlined below is only to be carried out if it is safe to do so and you have been given the express permission by the Fire brigade commander (If present on site, at the time this activity can start.) and the EMR depot manager or his / her deputy.

- 4.1 Raise the alarm and alert all persons in the vicinity. Follow procedures as laid out in SWP-7.4 *Emergency – Fire Safety*.
- 4.2 Only operate mobile plant for which you are trained and authorised to operate.
- 4.3 Follow instructions given by the FRS (with assistance from the Depot manager and his / her deputy) precisely and do not deviate from these instructions unless you are in danger or under express permission by the FRS.
- 4.4 Ensure you have a functioning 2 way radio with you at all times to enable contact between yourself, the FRS, the depot manager and other operatives in the vicinity and site management.
- 4.5 Where possible remove all cylinders, drums or items that contain flammable substances or substances that may react violently if exposed to heat / flame / water from the area using mobile plant.
- 4.6 All items of mobile plant must be removed from the vicinity of the fire and only if safe to do so.
- 4.7 If the fire becomes too intense and / or under instructions from the FRS, cease operations immediately and evacuate the area.
- 4.8 Position any machine upwind of any smoke / fumes. If this is not possible then the activity must be ceased immediately.
- 4.9 Ensure the penstock valve (if fitted) is closed at the earliest opportunity i.e. before the FRS commence fire fighting with hoses / water / foam and if applicable use surface water containment booms to enclose fire water / foam and prevent egress of fire water into drains, surface and ground water.

Remember: If you cannot do it safely, don't do it. Report to your supervisor.

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PROCEDURE (Continued):

- 4.10 Only trained mobile plant operators can be appointed and be used in fire fighting operations and they must be listed on Fire Fighting Record Form and their welfare checked periodically (by communication with 2 way radio) and recorded on form at set intervals.
- 4.11 This operation must be conducted with machine cab doors closed. DO NOT operate with the door open. The vehicle air conditioning must be switched on.
- 4.12 If smoke / fumes begin to access the cab, the mobile plant must be removed from the area and the operation ceased immediately.
- 4.13 Using the mobile plant (normally grab material handlers), create fire breaks between the burning material and any other stock heaps.
- 4.14 Once suitable fire breaks have been established, contact the depot manager or his / her deputy for further instructions.
- 4.15 Only if requested by the FRS, carefully start to remove items from the heap which are burning. Place the items in an open area of the yard (or into skip containers containing water) where it can be extinguished. DO NOT hold the burning items in the grab for excessive periods of time. There is the potential of the heat melting hydraulic hoses or causing damage to grab rams.
- 4.16 At ALL times, the operator must have a readily available escape route. If this is not possible the operation must not take place.
- 4.17 All mobile plant cabs and hydraulic pipes must be periodically sprayed with water by either the depot based fire hydrants and hose, or by the fire brigade (using their appliances) to prevent over heating or melting of grab items.
- 4.18 Periodically, water must be applied to the area around the mobile plant fuel tank to prevent over heating.
- 4.19 Direct contact with the operators using the 2-way radio must be maintained at all times. Regular contact must be made to ascertain the health and wellbeing of the persons carrying out the task. Regular rest breaks are to be taken at a timeframe dependant on the circumstances and agreed before commencement of operations.
- 4.20 If at any stage the depot manager, his / her deputy or the fire brigade commander order operations to cease or any reason ,then this must be obeyed without question.

Car Bale Fire

- 4.21 In the event of a fire involving car bales, follow the procedure outlined above.
- 4.22 If safe to do so, obtain suitable sized skips or containers (which are sealed, to fill with water).
- 4.23 Part-fill the containers with water from the depot based Fire Tank and hoses.
- 4.24 Remove burning car bales individually from the heap and place them into the skips / containers of water. Ensure they are fully submerged. DO NOT DROP the bales from height. Do not retain contact with the bale. Do not overfill the containers / skips with car bales. Remove the material handler attachment from the water.
- 4.25 Allow the car bale to stay in the water until it is fully extinguished and cool.
- 4.26 Once the car bale has been extinguished, carefully remove it from the water and place separately into a quarantine area. DO NOT place the bale back into the heap (to ensure complete cooling).
- 4.27 Repeat this process for the remaining bales until all are extinguished. All bales that have been extinguished are to be placed separately and not stacked.
- 4.28 Extinguished bales must be left quarantined from all other stock heap for at least 12 hours, to prevent any possibility of re-ignition.
- 4.29 Once the fire has been fully extinguished, management and control can be handed back to the EMR Depot Manager. The welfare of all operational staff must be checked and recorded on the relevant form a final roll call made and both signed by the depot manager.

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5. ASSOCIATED GUIDANCE & INFORMATION:

- SWP-1.10 *General – A Guide to PPE*
- SWP-7.4 *Emergency – Fire Safety*
- *H10 Fire*
- Site Emergency Plan

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Competency Test			
Assessor Name:		Date of Assessment:	
Assessor Signature:		Assessment Score:	/ 6
Employee Name:		(marks / total)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass (100%)
Employee Signature:			<input type="checkbox"/> Fail (below 100%)

Please tick correct answer(s)

Q1	In the Event of a fire what must be done first?	
A:	Run down with nearest extinguisher to fight fire.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Phone the FRS.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Raise alarm and alert all persons in vicinity.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q2	Which statement is false?	
A:	Only operate mobile plant if trained & authorised to do so.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Position machine downwind of fumes / smoke.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Ensure you have a functioning 2 way radio.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q3	Procedure must only be attempted if:	
A:	FRS (fire brigade) requests assistance and agrees to it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Safety Coordinator agrees to it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Its not too windy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q4	If fire becomes too intense:	
A:	Douse mobile plant with water hose.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Cease operations immediately and evacuate the area (under instructions of FRS).	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Get more hoses and use more water.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q5	Which statement is true?	
A:	Remove all cylinders, drums or items that contain flammable liquids (if safe to do so).	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Spray water over all fuels, tanks, drums .	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	Move all flammable cylinders, drums etc. to the nearest depot.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q6	Which statement is false?	
A:	Ensure penstock valve is closed at earliest opportunity.	<input type="checkbox"/>
B:	Make sure penstock valve is open (to empty site of fire water).	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:	If applicable use containment booms to prevent egress of fire water into drains.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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