



Equipment fires are a leading cause of wildland fires.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

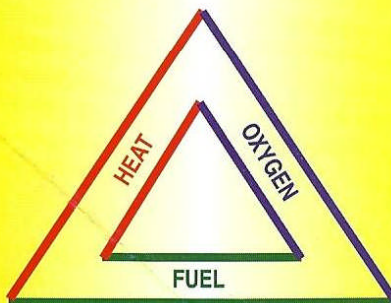
During Fire Season

- Know who is responsible for fire control in the area you are working.
- Have phone numbers, directions to site, and a cell phone available to all workers.
- Carry extra shovels and backpack cans.
- Know your site:
 - Can large trucks get into the area?
 - Are there turnarounds?
 - Is there water nearby?
 - Are the roads too muddy for emergency vehicles?

Types of Forest Fires

- **PEAT FIRE:** An underground fire that burns in decaying, organic materials known as peat. The fires usually go unnoticed for several days due to little smoke or flames. The peat fire will burn the root system on trees causing them to fall and they will come up to the surface and ignite surface fires. They can be started by lightning, **equipment**, and from forest fires occurring on the surface.
- **SURFACE FIRE:** This is the most common type of forest fire occurring in Wisconsin. The surface fire consumes the flash fuels found on the forest floor. It is generally fast burning and quite hot and is easily influenced by wind action. A surface fire will usually be the beginning of a crown fire if the conditions are right, so immediate response is necessary on all surface fires.
- **CROWN FIRE:** This occurs when fire sweeps through the foliage, leaves and needles of trees, large bushes, and dense brush. The potential for crown fires exists wherever pine stands occur. Crown fires are supported by the large amount of fuel burning on the surface.
- **SPOT FIRE:** Spot fires are nearly always the result of sparks or embers being carried ahead of a large going fire where they ignite new fires.

Fire Triangle



All 3 elements are needed. Eliminate any one and you have control – Eliminate FUEL!

Fire Prevention and Awareness For Loggers

DON'T BE THE CAUSE OF THIS!

Brochure Information Compiled By:
Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance (FISTA)
1-800-551-2656
Sponsored By:
USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry

Two Fire Seasons

In the Lake States, there are generally two fire seasons: spring and fall. The worst of the two is the spring fire season. It generally lasts from March until late May and ends when vegetation becomes green. The second fire season is the fall fire season and generally lasts from September until late November. This season ends when there is sufficient snowfall.

For loggers, the fire seasons can present serious problems that could have serious financial consequences. If you are the cause of a fire, you are responsible for all suppression costs and damages!

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, approximately 1,500 fires burn over 5,000 acres annually. Over 90% of these fires are human-caused.

Annual % of Wildfires by Cause

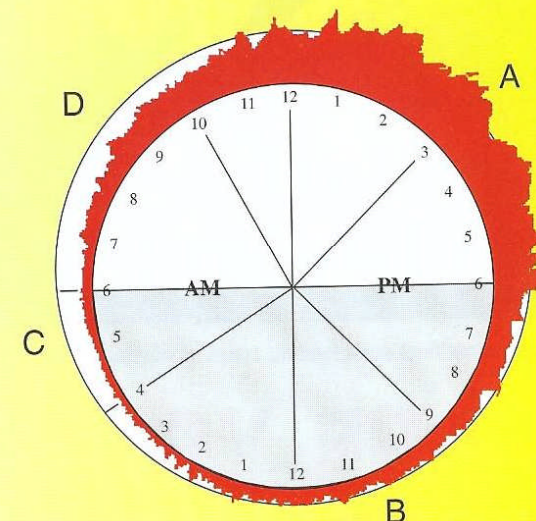
MINNESOTA	WISCONSIN	CAUSE
31%	35%	Debris Burning
8%	24%	Equipment
27%	12.5%	Arson/Incendiary
3.5%	7%	Campfires/Ash Disposal
	5%	Powerlines
	4%	Playing with Matches
3.2%	4%	Smoking
	3.5%	Fireworks
3%		Lightning
9.9%		Railroads
4.4%		Children
10%	5%	Other

So What Can YOU Do to Prevent Fires on Your Jobsite?

- Keep equipment clean and free of debris. Clean belly pans before fire season begins.
- Make sure your electrical system is in good condition and your batteries are secure.
- Make sure spark arresters are in place as required.
- Repair fluid leaks immediately.
- Use welding equipment or torches only when equipment is parked on bare ground. Have a suitable water supply and fire extinguishers readily available when doing this work.
- Park on bare ground when fueling equipment.
- Make sure all fuels and flammable products are properly marked and stored.
- Make sure all fire suppression equipment is in good working order.
- Complete daily circle checks to identify possible hazards.



The Fire Day



- A – Fire burns intensely; difficult to control
- B – Fire slows down gradually; becomes easier to control
- C – Fire at lowest EBB; easy to control
- D – Fire speeds up; becomes more difficult to control

5 Ratings of Fire Danger

1. **Low** – Fire danger negligible; fires will start from open flames, spread slowly, and in the absence of wind tend to go out.
2. **Moderate** – Some wildfires probable. Fires will start from a match or burning embers, spread quickly in dry grass or leaves.
3. **High** – Fires start readily from a match or sparks, spread quickly, and spot readily.
4. **Very High** – Fires start easily, spread very rapidly, crown and spot.
5. **Extreme** – Conditions are explosive. Wildland fuels are tinder dry. Fires start easily, burn fiercely and crown readily.