



# SAFELY SPEAKING



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Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance  
a WWPA Service Associate

## 10 WAYS TO PROTECT MOBILE EQUIPMENT

Mobile equipment loss prevention is one of the top concerns of a profitable business in heavy industry. This begins with management's support in areas such as equipment maintenance, housekeeping, employee training and a proactive attitude to prevent equipment down time. The following items are areas of concern for mobile equipment loss prevention and can be implemented for most mobile equipment:

1. Install and maintain a fully charged multi-purpose fire extinguisher that is a minimum of ten pounds in size, or if space is a factor, two five-pound extinguishers will work well on all mobile equipment.
2. Include self-suppression systems. Be sure these systems are serviced annually and inspected frequently for proper operation.
3. Improve on housekeeping within the engine compartment, hydraulic compartment, cab area, etc., on all equipment. Power washing frequently, cleaning and removing debris daily and/or as needed will help prevent a fire exposure.
4. Electrical maintenance and service should be reviewed frequently. This is one area where a qualified service technician may be needed for proper installation and repair.
5. Remember that proper cutting and welding practices should always be followed when performing this task on your equipment. Practices to follow include removing the piece being worked on whenever possible, cut/weld in the morning hours, power washing and cleaning before, having a fire watcher stand-by with adequate multi-purpose fire extinguisher, wetting down after and watching the machine the remainder of the day.
6. Maintain proper equipment guards, side panels, hood top shields and other safety items to help protect the engine components and improve housekeeping.
7. Install and use CBs or other two-way communication in all mobile equipment for emergency and other uses. Quick response in most emergency situations will benefit all involved.
8. Separate equipment by at least 25 ft. to 40 ft. when parked and unattended. This will help reduce a catastrophic property loss of multiple machines.
9. Use a safe pre-heater system in cold climates such as electrical, propane, quick couple, etc. When installing propane heaters, always be sure the heaters have thermocouple safety shut-offs and are electrically fused.
10. Do not overlook the hazards of vandalism when the equipment is unattended.

Remember as equipment changes occur, pro-active loss prevention involvement should address these new changes.

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