

# SAFETY ALERT 24/02

## Fire danger – working in dry paddocks.

13 February 2024 (Reissued from Jan 2021)

### MEMO TO ALL EMPLOYEES

Farms, paddocks and areas that we need to access are drying out quickly, and the long grass and vegetation can present a fire danger. We need to be very careful and alert to prevent our work or vehicles causing a fire.



### Possible causes of fire

Hot exhaust pipes, including trucks fitted with diesel particulate filters (DPF), have been known to cause fires in long grass. The DPF can emit super-hot gases if the filter is clogged.

Other possible ignition sources include gas torches, cutting tools and discarded cigarettes.

### What do you need to do?

Assess the area you are going in to and consider whether there is a fire risk. If so:

- Clear the area around the truck exhausts, particularly those idling/being used for lifting and access. A crew recently used a wooden pallet and wet cardboard on top to protect the area under the exhaust
- Have a water supply available to put out any spot fires, and keep handy during any cutting or flame operations
- Discard cigarettes safely
- Stay alert

### In the event of a fire

- Only fight the fire if it is small and safe to do so
- If not safe or it gets out of control, evacuate all staff and vehicles upwind and call 111 - ask for Fire
- Notify your supervisor and let the landowner know asap
- Log the incident on Vault

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

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Group HS&W Manager

