

Safety Alert

Tire Explosion During Equipment Fire

DANGER!
Tires can explode during a fire and after the fire is extinguished.



On June 14, 2024, one firefighter died, and another was injured when a front end loader tire exploded while firefighters fought the equipment fire.

Best Practices

In the event of a possible or actual fire (e.g., odor, heat, smoke, flames):

- **Stop the machine**, lower all attachments, set the parking brake, and turn the equipment off.
- **Actuate the machine-mounted fire suppression system**, if available.
- **Safely exit the machine and retreat to a safe location**, preferably 1,000 feet away.
- **Warn all others in the vicinity of the fire**, notify management, and contact appropriate emergency personnel.
- **Do not attempt to extinguish** a tire fire with a hand-held extinguisher.
- **Wait for emergency responders** to arrive. Stay clear of the fire.
- **From a distance**, emergency personnel can use a fire or water truck to cool down the equipment. (See SAE J2828NOV2016 – Off-Road Tire Handling Guidelines.)
- **Wait at least 24 hours** after the fire has been extinguished to allow the equipment to cool. A remote heat sensing device may assist in gauging residual heat. Elevated tire pressure lingers and is difficult to assess. Danger may remain if a fire-damaged tire is inflated, including dismounting an inflated tire from its rim.