

# Huntsville Center

## Safety and Occupational Health Office

### Lessons Learned - "Skid Steer Fire"

#### Safety Issue Description

While two men were working on clearing vegetation the skid steer mower/cutter caught on fire. One of the men was stuck in the main compartment because the mower deck was in the upright position blocking the door. He was barely able to escape thanks to his partner helping to open the door. They were unable to put out the fire with the 10-B:C fire extinguisher that was provided.



#### Root Cause

The fire was caused because of debris accumulating in the engine compartment. Dry pieces of woodland debris were exposed to the high heat of the engine compartment and eventually caught fire engulfing the entire mower in flames.



#### Safety Recommendations

- Conduct daily inspections of the engine compartment and remove any observed debris.
- Practice emergency extrication and fire suppression drills.
- Regular inspection and maintenance of equipment by rental company. Verify that the equipment has been certified by a mechanic that it is in safe operating condition when it is delivered to the site.
- Add a 20-B.C fire extinguisher to the rear (external) of the operator cab so that the escort can assist in putting out flames.

