

# SAFETY ALERT

## Medical Aid

February 8, 2017

## Potential Hazards

- Inadvertent discharge due to a fully charged fire extinguisher missing a safety pin.
- Potential flying projectile due to a fully charged fire extinguisher not being properly secured.
- Fire retardant chemical dispersed in a very confined space while moving:
  - Disorientation resulting in a collision.
  - Chemical inhalation.



## Incident Summary

- A fire extinguisher was inadvertently discharged in the cab of a skidder, dispersing the chemicals throughout the cab while the machine was in motion.
- The extinguisher was missing the required safety pin thereby allowing the lever to be engaged when the operator was moving other objects in the cab.
- As a result, the operator inhaled a significant amount of the chemical before exiting the cab after a number of unsuccessful attempts and later that day was forced to visit the hospital.

## Preventative Actions

- OHS Reg Sec 16.34 – *Start of shift inspection.*
  - *The operator must inspect the equipment before the start of operation on the shift...*
- OHS Reg Sec 16.35 – *Securing tools and equipment.*
  - *The operator must maintain the cab, floor and deck of mobile equipment free of material, tools or other objects...*
- According to the *Canadian National Fire Code* (which is adopted both Provincially & Territorially), fire extinguishers must be inspected as part of a monthly safety regimen, as well as serviced annually.



**SAFETY COMES FIRST**

...and it starts with the person you see in the mirror.

