Hydraulic Oil Causes Fatal Burns



A bulldozer operator was sprayed with hot oil when a hydraulic hose ruptured. He was wearing flammable polyester clothing that melted on his skin. He later died from burn injuries.

Investigation showed the hose had become weakened and frayed from rubbing against the bulldozer’s engine cowling.

A tragedy such as this could be prevented by inspecting and maintaining mobile equipment regularly. Damaged or worn hoses and other pieces should be replaced immediately. When working around a heat source or anywhere fire is a possibility, wear clothing which will not melt on the skin if it burns.