

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 96

Date: November 2025	Focus Group: LUV Operators; Vehicle Drivers
Topic: Engine Bay Fires – Dry Vegetation	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background: During a morning inspection on a forest block, a bird nest was discovered in the engine bay of a Can-Am LUV. The nest was partially cleared before driving to the operation site for weed control. Approximately 1 km along the main laneway, the operator noticed the smell of something burning. Upon stopping and inspecting, a small amount of dry vegetation had ignited behind the engine. The operator quickly extinguished the flame using the onboard fire extinguisher and monitored the vehicle for an hour to ensure no reignition occurred.

Injury Details: No injuries occurred. The LUV was taken to a workshop for inspection.

Risk Awareness: Dry vegetation lodged in engine bays can ignite quickly, creating a fire hazard to both the operator/driver and surrounding forest areas. Even small sparks or residual heat from the engine can trigger combustion. Proactive inspection and full removal of debris are essential, particularly in dry weather or the fire season.

Safe Behaviours (for all LUV operators and vehicle custodians):

- Check the engine bay and under-tray areas for nests or debris, and clear all combustible material before driving, especially after long periods of storage.
- Always carry an approved and charged fire extinguisher and know how to use it.
- Monitor vehicles after extinguishing any fire to prevent reignition.
- Avoid driving through long dry (rank) grass or high-risk fire areas.
- Recognise when a fire is beyond your control and notify emergency services.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

