

Best Management Practices (*BMPs*) Guidelines for Motorized Carriages (Fire Precaution Level III)

1. Keep carriage clean of flammable material and debris.
2. Utilize manufactured recommended non-sparking clamping jaws for braking system
3. Perform daily maintenance checks to assure:
 - USDA Forest Service approved exhaust system is in compliance.
 - Fire extinguishers are securely mounted on opposite sides of the carriage and fully charged.
 - Emergency motor cutoff is in good working order.
 - Battery hold-downs are in good repair and positive terminal is insulated.
 - Electrical wiring and circuit breakers are in good working order, according to manufacturer specifications.
 - Non-sparking clamping jaws are in good working order.
4. For operations in western Washington (summit of the Cascade Mountains west), monitor relative humidity hourly. Shut down operation when relative humidity is less than 30%.

Severe Fire Behavior Potential related to Relative Humidity and Fuel Moisture Content			
R.H. %	1-Hour F.M. %	10-Hour F.M. %	Relative ease of chance ignition and spotting; general burning conditions
26-40	8-10	8-9	High ignition hazard – matches always dangerous; occasional crowning, spotting caused by gusty winds; “moderate burning conditions.
15-30	5-7	5-7	Quick ignition, rapid buildup, extensive crowning; any increase in wind causes increased spotting, crowning, loss of control; fire moves up bark of trees igniting aerial fuels; long distance spotting in pine stands; dangerous burning conditions.
< 15	< 5	< 5	All sources of ignition dangerous; aggressive burning, spot fires occur often and spread rapidly, extreme fire behavior probable; critical burning conditions