

Appendix E
MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: FELLER-BUNCHER OPERATION UNDER IFPL'S II & III
TO: DF Distribution
FROM: Doug Coyle, Protection From Fire Director
DATE: September 29, 1992

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY INTERIM
GUIDANCE ON OPERATION OF FELLER-BUNCHER
MACHINES DURING INDUSTRIAL FIRE PRECAUTION
LEVELS II AND III**

This interim guidance recognizes that feller-buncher machines are becoming increasingly popular in the timber industry due to their mobility, cost effectiveness and efficiency. This guidance is designed to maximize the opportunity to operate these machines while, at the same time, recognizing that these machines present a risk of fire ignition.

GUIDANCE:

Under Industrial Fire Precaution Level II, feller-buncher machines will be allowed to operate if the below listed standards are met.

Under Industrial Fire Precaution Level III, feller-buncher machines will be allowed to operate until 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon and after 8:00 p.m. in the evening if the below listed standards are met.

STANDARDS:

Districts, on a case by case basis, may waive or modify these standards, based on the hazards, the risks or the types of equipment existing at a specific operation site:

1. The operation must be compliance with all applicable fire prevention, fire tool, water supply and watchman requirements of ORS Chapter 477.
2. The feller-buncher machine must operate in close proximity to a suitably sized and equipped dozer which is immediately available for fire trail construction.
3. The operator of the feller-buncher machine, or other specifically designated person, must visually observe all areas in which the feller-buncher machine has operated at least once every fifteen minutes until the operations' watchman service begins.

DEFINITIONS:

“Close proximity” shall normally mean the dozer is able to travel to the location of the feller-buncher machine in ten minutes or less.

“Feller-buncher” means a self propelled vehicle used to fell and/or buck fallen trees. Such vehicles may or may not be equipped with a device designed to raise and move logs or fallen trees from one location to another.

“Immediately available” means that a qualified operator is on site and that the dozer requires no significant modification, repair, fueling, etc. before being able to respond to a reported fire. Additionally, the dozer and operator must be able to initiate travel to a reported fire within five minutes of detection of the fire.