



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 21



Issued 3/9/07

FIRE/HOT WORK SAFETY

Recently there have been several incidents across the ARTC Network, where fires, have started out on track, caused by welding, cutting, grinding, burning operations.

In some cases, these fires have burnt out many hectares of privately owned land or State Forests.

These fires have started on work-sites controlled by either, ARTC, Contractors or our Alliance Partners.

Fortunately, losses on private land have been limited to fencing and vegetation

In all cases, the causes of the fire outbreaks have been investigated, with, in some cases, the relevant Work Group Leader/Supervisor being interviewed by the local Police and Fire Authorities.

Some fire are still being investigated and there are possibilities that individuals may face prosecution from relevant authorities for not implementing proper or adequate fire controls

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- Advise all employees under your control of this Safety Alert
- Ensure that all employees under your control, who maybe involved in activities, that present a fire risk while out on track, take the following actions:-
 - Properly risk assess (including TAKE FIVE) each task before commencing
 - Ensure that adequate fire fighting equipment is at the actual work-site
 - Ensure that all fire fighting equipment is operational and working properly, before commencing any task
 - Ensure that fire fighting equipment is filled with water prior to leaving depots
 - Have “back-up” equipment on hand
 - Damp down “high risk” areas prior to commencing any work
 - Obtain “hot-work permits” during fire ban periods
- Ensure a “sign-off” (for example, a Team Safety Meeting record) is obtained to verify that employees have been briefed on this Safety Alert