Front End Loader Engine Fire

WHAT HAPPENED

An Front End Loader (FEL) operator completed his pre-start checks after his break and then proceeded to carryout his normal duties. After loading two dumpers the operator noticed the FEL's battery light on. The operator notified the workshop on the radio and brought his machine straight over. The mobile plant electrical contractor detected a burning smell and immediately isolated the machine.

On inspection via the FEL side panel it was established that the earth lead was alight. The contractor extinguished the fire with the appropriate extinguisher. If both the operator and contract fitter had not taken the prompt decisive action the mobile plant could have sustained major damage.

On investigation it was established that the FEL had a suitable regime of maintenance and inspection and had only recently been serviced. Further investigation has established that the starter motor failed to disengage.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Starter motor warning lights are being fitted to the mobile plant fleet at the site. This allows the operators to visually confirm the starter motor has disengaged when the warning light goes out.

Warning Light

LOCATION:	**COMPANY-WIDE**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**19/10/2011**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**MOBILE PLANT**	**INCIDENT No:**	**00312**