



Learning from incidents

AWARENESS ALERT

Volvo FM Series Truck Fires Due To Loose Engine Insulation

GRP/AW/201011

All Shell Businesses

October 2010

Target audience for this alert

Road transport contractors, contract holders and fleet managers involved in the operation of Volvo FM series trucks:

What happened

On 30th August 2010 the driver of a Volvo FM series truck in the Downstream Supply & Distribution business noticed a burning smell from a fire underneath the hood (engine cover). Reacting appropriately, the driver parked alongside the side of the road and put the fire out using his extinguisher.

On 18th September 2010 a similar incident occurred with another Volvo FM series truck.



Example of the effected Volvo FM series

Why it happened

Insulation material from underneath the cabin bonnet (cab over model) fell onto the exhaust manifold and was ignited due to the hot exhaust manifold temperature (up to 600 °C). This caused the air inlet housing to melt/burn.

The insulation material serves to reduce engine noise and heat radiation. When aged, the pins holding the insulation may fail and give way.



Remains of damaged insulation

Lessons learned

Failure of ancillary engine components, such as insulation material, may lead an engine fire. Ensuring the integrity of such components is thus important.

Recommendations

1. Inspect the insulation material mounts of Volvo FM Series similar to the model in the photo on the right ("Example of the effected Volvo FM series"). .
2. Ensure the integrity of insulation material mounts is included in all ongoing vehicle inspection programs. .



Original position of insulation
Air inlet housing

Further information

Contact [Ronald Visser](#) from the Downstream Road Transport Team..



Goal Zero: Zero injuries, Zero fatalities

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