



Incident Report – Open Spaces Team

Reported by; Adam Barnett

Date of report; 18/03/2021

Title/Role; Grounds Manager

Incident no;

Incident Information

Incident type; Vehicle Fire

Date of incident; 09/03/2021

Location; Outside Wardens shed

Incident Description

On the day of Tuesday 9th March 2021 we hired in a wood chipper so that we could chip all of the Christmas trees from the display in town and also wood from the open spaces. All Christmas trees were located by the compound at the rear of the wardens shed where the team proceeded to chip all the trees. The buggy was reversed up to the chipper so that all the chips was aimed into the bed of the chipper. We had raised the bed up by about 1 foot so that the shoot could be aimed into the bottom of the bed so that the chip could build up. We do this because if the bed were flat the chip would fall through the gap between the top edge of the bed and the rear of the cab which would then fall into the engine bay on to the vehicle.

I was working the chipper itself by passing the trees through the chipper, Jake was working with a chainsaw to make the trees easier to go through the chipper and Nick was passing the trees from the large pile to me. All personnel were wearing the appropriate PPE to be able to carry out the task.

Once we had chipped several trees and the buggy bed was full, I would clear out as much chip as I could from the gap to the engine bay and then lower the bed flat to travel. I would then drive the buggy into Herne Hill where we have our chip pile ready for future tasks. Once I had reversed the buggy to the chip pile and emptied out the bed I would then drag out as much chip that had fallen on to the engine as I could with my hands, then lower the bed and then drive back to the wardens shed where we would blow out the engine bay to clear more chip.

On my second run up to the pile I facetimes Hayley in the office to show her what was happening with the chip that had fallen on to the engine. By the time I had driven up the wood chip was smoldering, and Hayley could see this happening. I asked her if we could look again at purchasing the sides for the bed that I had spoken about on two occasions last year, as this would stop this from happening. She asked me to speak with OHG Quads and get a price for the next Open Spaces meeting to discuss. I then cleared out more of the chippings as there was more room to get into the engine bay with the bed up to do this. I then drove down to the Wardens shed with the bed up ready to blow out the engine bay ready for the next run.

When I arrived at the shed, I parked up in position ready for the next load. I got out of the vehicle and looked at the rear of the vehicle there were flames. I shouted Jake who was in the shed to grab the blower. I went into the cab and grabbed the dry powder fire extinguisher and proceeded to extinguish the fire. By the time I had put the flames out Jake arrived and started to blow out the engine bay as I had my hands in pulling out more wood chip.

Once we had made sure we had cleared as much as we could I then called Hayley and told her what had happened. I then called Lloyd at OHG Quads and told him what had happened, and he asked for pictures to see the damage as he did not have anybody to send out to survey the buggy. He told me to disconnect the battery as a safety precaution and store the vehicle until he could collect the vehicle.

Persons involved

- 1. Adam Barnett**
- 2. Jake Taylor**
- 3. Nick Bowring**

Witnesses

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

Grounds Manager Name; Adam Barnett

Signature;

Deputy Clerks Name;

Signature;