

**United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Office of Safety and Occupational Health
Safety Alert**

No. 2010-1

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Subject: 2003 Polaris 330 Magnum 4x4 ATV Fire (Date of Incident: 12/04/2010)

Area of Concern: All ATV Users

Distribution: FS-Wide

Discussion: This alert concerns a fire potential on 2003 Polaris 330 Magnum 4x4 ATVs. LE&I has recently experienced an ATV fire while an officer was out on patrol. The LE&I officer, while driving the ATV, heard a fire ignition sound and looked down to the fuel tank area. He observed a large amount of grayish fluid spattering on his wool pants. The Officer quickly stopped the ATV and jumped off the rear of the machine fearing a fuel tank explosion. Within minutes the fire totally engulfed the machine.

Officers later observed a thirty foot line of what appeared to be fuel and oil mixture in the snow which became more apparent as the line got closer to the now destroyed ATV. The assumption was made that the hose line containing the liquid failed allowing the fluid to fall onto the hot muffler thereby igniting it.

LE&I officer was not harmed in this incident thanks to his wearing wool pants at the time and quick reaction to get off the machine.

Officer contacted Polaris Manufacturing to inquire about recall notices, and whether this make, model and serial number were affected. There were no recall notices or alerts posted for the VIN of this particular machine. A local ATV service center was contacted to see if they had seen similar problems. The serviceman stated that he had seen and repaired similar problems on that same year machine although they had not been recalled.

Recommendation:

1. Recommend all users of similar ATVs inspect fuel lines and fittings to assure they are not leaking or deteriorated.
2. Recommend all users contact Polaris Manufacturing and research the VINs of machines still in use for applicable recall or safety alerts.

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