



**File Code:** 5130/6700/7130  
**Route To:**

**Date:** July 30, 2013

**Subject:** John Deere "J" Series Overheating Risk Assessment (Our ltr. 3/27/13)

**To:** Forest Supervisors, Forest Manager, Area Supervisor

In response to recent Regional guidance regarding the John Deere (JD) "J" Series bulldozers overheating, the Regional Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) staff developed a working group to review these occurrences. This group identified and addressed the associated hazards with dozer overheating and prepared the Risk Register and Risk Assessment enclosed.

The Regional Fleet and FAM staffs are working with researchers at the San Dimas Technology and Development Center along with qualified Forest Service Dozer Operators to develop a process to test field dozers that have been modified with kits and after-market products. This team will compare performance and overheating thresholds of the "J" Series models against other makes and models of dozers under the same environmental conditions. Upon completion of the testing phase, further guidance will be distributed regarding remedies for overheating equipment with the intent of ensuring reliable dozers.

It is my expectation that everyone involved with dozer operations is aware of the overheating issue and review both the risk assessment and register. Warning products are also being developed to ensure that all operators are alerted of this issue and have been given some potential mitigation. Once available, these products will be sent to the units who have the JD "J" series dozers.

Please contact Mark Faldoski, Fleet Program Manager, at (404) 347-4187 or [mafaldoski@fs.fed.us](mailto:mafaldoski@fs.fed.us), with any fleet questions. Contact Stephen P. Weaver, Assistant Director, FAM, at 404-347-2726 or [spweaver@fs.fed.us](mailto:spweaver@fs.fed.us) with fire management questions.

*/s/ Mary A. Morris (for)*  
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Enclosures (3)

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