

# At ASCO, we know Texas summers can be hard on your heavy equipment. So here are

# 671PS TO BEAT THE TEXAS HEAT

hings are always bigger in Texas, including summertime which means hotter temperatures, humidity, increased sun exposure and dry conditions. Increased heat and humidity forces components to work harder than normal and wear at a faster rate. All of that, combined with a heavy summer workload, can result in unique maintenance and equipment challenges.

Preventative maintenance and close monitoring of machines can help prevent issues and costly repairs. Here are some tips for keeping your equipment up and running during the heat of summer.

# 1. Daily Inspections

Check hydraulic fluid and coolant every day to ensure they are topped off. Make sure that the coolant expansion reservoir is to the full mark. Modern cooling radiators are made to run totally full in order to eliminate oxygen from entering the cooling system. Also, inspect the radiator cap for proper check valve operation and proper relief pressure.

It's important to confirm the type of coolant being used in the machine.

Newer OAT (organic acid technology) is used in more recent machines, while a silica-based coolant is used in older machines. Mix the two together and gelling will take place, which will drastically reduce the cooling efficiency. If the machine has OAT, there will be a tag on or near the coolant fill location that clearly identifies it. Operators should also check the coolant concentration.

A 50-50 concentration is best for machine operation, as too much water can lead to corrosion, a lower boiling point and cavitation.

Operators should also test the air conditioning before getting started to ensure a comfortable work environment; check windshield wiper operation; and check tires and tire pressure, as tires wear out faster in hotter temperatures.

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# 2. Check for and Clear Debris

Keep radiators clear of any debris. To maximize airflow through the coolers, also frequently check all inlets and outlets of the engine hoods for debris build-up. If these areas are left dirty, substances like mud will bake to a solid form and become very difficult to remove. Clean these components daily using compressed air.

#### 3. Proper Operation

Adhering to proper operating practices as outlined in the operators manual, including proper machine start up and shut down, is key to ensuring the best possible performance of the unit during high ambient temperatures. This will also add life to your skid steer or compact track loader.

# 4. Service Checks

If everything mentioned up to this point looks good, but the machine's temperature seems to be elevated, operators should have their service department check the thermostat opening temperature.

# 5. Remote Monitoring

Many machines today come standard with telematics. One of the easiest things a fleet manager can do with telematics is monitor engine temperature. If there is an odd spike in temperature, that serves as a red flag for potential faults or defects elsewhere in the machine—ultimately helping to catch a larger failure before it happens.

# 6. Safe Storage

When equipment isn't in use, it should be stored in a dry, sheltered place to keep it away from the hot sun and balmy atmosphere. Unnecessary moisture could create damage in the form of rust, which could affect other equipment systems.

The summer months can be some of the busiest for the construction industry— as well as some of the most lucrative. Don't miss out on work due to an unprepared machine. With a few simple steps and routine maintenance, operators can ensure that their equipment keeps running smoothly during the Texas heat.



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