



FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Oakdale Area Fire Association,
Oakdale, Wisconsin

APPLICATION:

TetraKO firefighting gel used
from a brush truck and backpack
sprayers on a 10+ acre wildfire.

DATE:

October 22, 2010

SUMMARY:

TetraKO solution outperforms conventional Class A foam at a wildfire in central Wisconsin. A single 175-gallon brush truck using TetraKO worked in tandem with much larger DNR vehicles dispensing Class A foam. The occasion showcased TetraKO's ability to knockdown and contain a wildfire.

TetraKO™
ATTACK. SUPPRESS. CONTAIN.

FIRE INCIDENT REPORT #1:

Around here, we have lots of vegetation and it can get dry and very windy – ideal conditions for wildfires. On October 22, we responded to a wildland fire started by hot ashes that were carried into the nearby woods, starting what turned into a ten+ acre wildfire. Together, we responded with a group from Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

For this response, the DNR used two John Deere units with rear-mounted plows to create a firebreak surrounding the fire. These DNR vehicles have 150-gallon water tanks mounted above the tracks.

Our fire department's primary wildland unit on the scene was a pickup truck with a 175-gallon skid unit on the back featuring a 15 hp engine and a hose reel on top. This unit had been filled with TetraKO solution about three months earlier.

The DNR was using Class A foam on their John Deere units. And our fire department also used Class A foam on a second brush truck that was on the scene.

In addition, we had TetraKO mixed into two, five-gallon soft backpack sprayers. These were ideal because the backpacks keep oxygen out, preserving the product. There is no comparison between using plain water or TetraKO from a backpack sprayer. The TKO is far more effective.

My experience with the use of foam on these types of fires is that, after a short time, the foam evaporates and you end up with rekindling problems. But with TetraKO, when we sprayed a protective coating, it just melded into the vegetation, heavy brush and dead wood. And we were amazed at how it smothered the fire and prevented any rekindling.

Our small skid unit with TetraKO and 175 gallons of mixed solution was able to contain the one third of the fire's perimeter we were responsible for. The DNR's two John Deere units, during the same time, had to return to the water fill point three times each to contain the remaining perimeter.

After the wildfire, we easily rinsed out the tank with water and have seen no ill effects at all. They're clean as can be.

I'm very excited about how TetraKO performed on this wildfire, and want to do more testing of it on structure protection. In a worst-case wildfire scenario with homes and businesses threatened, I believe it could be the product we've been looking for. The idea would be to spray it on a threatened building ahead of a wildfire.

My responsibility is to look at what's new and to explore technologies that can make our department more effective and enhance protection for our community.

I was truly amazed, and I'm planning to put TetraKO into both of my trucks. Thanks for giving us the chance to try TetraKO.

—Gordon Fick,
Oakdale Area Fire Association Chief



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