

DATE: August 19, 2005

PAGE: 1 of 1

BULLETIN NO. \_\_\_\_\_ LRSB0003

MODEL(S): \_\_\_\_\_ All

ATTENTION: LongReach DEALERS - SERVICE and PARTS MANAGERS

SUBJECT: Safety Alert: Viton Seals and O-Rings

### BACKGROUND:

Viton seals and o-rings can produce a dangerous by-product when exposed to high heat or fire. Some o-rings are made with a product called Viton which is a fluoroelastomer used for many years in the making of seals. It has excellent properties to resist corrosion or deterioration especially in fuel system connections.

### POTENTIAL FOR INJURY:

When this material is exposed to high temperatures, it decomposes. One of the products formed from the decomposition is hydrofluoric acid, which is extremely corrosive. The seal turns into a sticky black or dark brown substance that will stick to exposed skin. The only known method to remove it is surgical. In normal applications it is extremely safe.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. When working on equipment that has been damaged by fire or otherwise exposed to high temperatures, wait until a substantial cooling period has occurred and wear neoprene or other heavy-duty rubber type gloves.
2. The melted seals can be cleaned up using paper towels and disposed in regular garbage.
3. Dispose of gloves after use. Once cooled there is a much lower risk to skin.

There is no easy way to identify Viton o-rings as they used to be brown in color but are now black, which is the same as most O-rings and seals. It will be safer to assume that when you are pulling apart connections on fire damaged machines that there will be Viton material.

There have been no reported cases of skin contact with burnt Viton to Allied Systems, but the hazard exists.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Allied Systems Company Service Department at 503-625-2560.