



CASE STUDY



HULCHER CLEARS FIRE DAMAGE FROM BRIDGE, REMOVES DRIFTWOOD FROM PIERS

Scope

Trespassers caused driftwood around a bridge pier to catch fire, which led to damage of one portion of the bridge. Inspection of the situation made it clear that the driftwood was more than a fire threat. It also stressed the bridge pier and rechanneled the river water, which could cause flooding of the surrounding area. The railroad needed a contractor to remove the damaged portions of bridge and pull out the accumulated driftwood to eliminate the multiple hazards it presented.

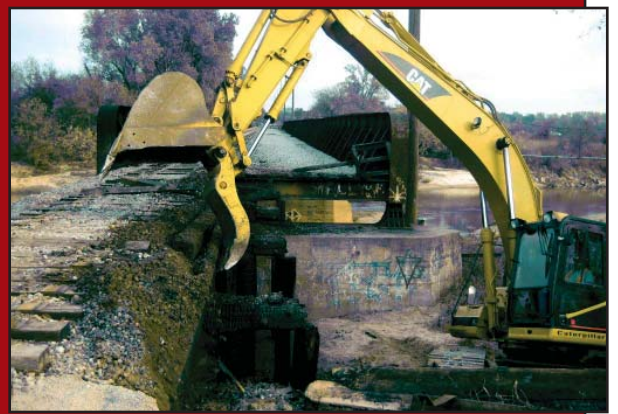
Solution

Hulcher deployed a Caterpillar® 325 excavator and hi-rail grapple truck to remove the damaged pieces from an 80-foot stretch of the bridge. The excavator carefully disassembled the burned segments, breaking them into manageable lengths that then were loaded onto the grapple truck for disposal. The excavator cut off affected pilings below ground level, dressed up the slope and cleaned remaining debris from the area. This work was completed in six hours, allowing the railroad's bridge gang to rebuild the affected portion of the bridge and restore it to full working order.

Hulcher's excavator later returned to remove the driftwood. Over a two-day period the excavator worked, sometimes standing on the driftwood "island" itself, to pull out the debris and haul it downstream.

Outcome

Hulcher performed both phases of the project on time and on budget, and the project supervisor was pleased with how efficiently the work was completed. The crew's railroad expertise allowed them to work quickly and smoothly with the railroad's bridge crew. Finally, with the driftwood removed, the risk of fire, structural stress and flooding due to water flow obstruction was eliminated.



KEY FACTS

PROJECT SUMMARY: Take down fire-damaged portion of bridge and remove driftwood

BRIDGE GANG SUPPORT: Removed fire damage and prepped site for bridge gang to perform bridge repair

RESULTS: Bridge restored to full operation; driftwood removal improved water flow, reduced stress on bridge pier and drastically minimized risk of fire damage or obstruction-related flooding

