

The Kut Kwick Corporation's BrushMaster

Support for the Firewise Concept

Following this write up is a link to a video we uploaded to YouTube filmed by a Sarasota, Florida TV Station featuring members of the Florida Commission of Forestry telling about their experiences with the Kut Kwick BrushMaster©. The video shows the BrushMaster© being used to cut fuel breaks around houses, businesses, and to cut lanes into the forest, not only for getting equipment and personnel into forest fires, but also providing exit paths.

Kut Kwick, Corp. designed and perfected this machine to clear typical southern forest lands. An important use of this machine is for fire prevention and control. Kut Kwick, Corp. has application patents for reducing brush to small chips that lay flat on the ground where they cannot get the oxygen required to sustain a fire. Kut Kwick also has design patents on the BrushMaster©. The machine has been actively used in brush clearing for utility and beautification purposes. The machines have proved to be very heavily constructed, easy to maintain, have low maintenance cost, and an extremely long useful life in the abusive commercial environment. The BrushMaster machines have recorded more than 7000 hours on them and are still running with minimal maintenance.

We have completed extensive testing regarding the efficacy of the BrushMaster© for stopping forest fires. We have confirmed in all of our tests that, when a blazing brush fire reaches the fuel break cut by the Kut Kwick BrushMaster©, the fire drops to the ground where it transverses slowly with a low flame, smolders, or goes out. In any case a firefighter can easily extinguish any remaining hot spots with a tamp, water or by other traditional means.

These machines can replace hundreds of firefighters who are attempting to do brush removal by hand. The time and cost savings are tremendous. Actual performance records from typical southern forest lands confirm that in one hour a single BrushMaster© can do the brush removal that it would take 100 firefighters to do in one hour. A man can only clear 400 sq. ft. of normal forest land in one hour. This machine cuts an average of 1¼ acres in normal forest land or a 1¼ mile long swath 7-feet wide in just one hour. We estimate the savings, in Georgia alone, will be at least \$7million each year and could save as much as \$20 million per year. These savings assume that the state of Georgia would purchase two BrushMasters for each of its 6 districts.

We estimate each of these twelve machines would be used at least 500 hours per year. Included in that estimate is approximately 200 or more hours fighting forest fires, the balance doing *Wildland Urban Interface*, clearing forest land back 200-400 feet from houses and commercial structures. The operational costs for the 12 machines would be less than \$200,000 per year. The first year savings would be approximately \$7,000,000, and could literally be as high as \$20,000,000 in the first year and of \$7,000,000 to \$20,000,000 each following year for the 12-year useful life of the machines. The best possible forest fire protection would be produced by using the machines 12 months out of the year to produce a *Wildland Urban Interface* a quarter of a mile deep next to populated areas.

This multipurpose machine can also be used by fire fighters for rapid access to forest fires caused by lightning strikes. Lightning strike fires are now immediately identifiable and located by GPS. However, they often occur in densely forested areas that are difficult to walk to. The BrushMaster mower can quickly cut a path to the fire, perhaps 4 times as fast as required by walking personnel. The machine can then be used to cut a fuel break to control the fire. The path cut to the fire assures firefighters an open path to get equipment in and a path to "get out" should the fire get out of control. In addition to firefighting and fire control the machines will produce very sustained savings by reducing the labor costs to maintain parks, road right-of-ways, historic places, and all of the areas that must be maintained for utility as well as beautification but tend to be reclaimed by forest growth. And it can turn on a dime. It has a 0° turn radius. It will

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operate on 32° slopes.

Other methodology is certainly appropriate for dealing with forest fires. In wetlands, in front of some roadways, inside forest and swamps, backburns and plowed fire breaks have a place along with the use of bulldozers, other tracked equipment, air craft deposited water and fire retardant. But not in Wildland Urban Interface.

The BrushMaster machine is very mobile. It can easily be tow on a trailer behind a pick up truck. The driver of the truck normally also operates the machine. No special drivers license is required to transport this machine.

This week the Georgia Forestry Commission called on Kut Kwick to clear approximately 30-acres at the Ruskin School in Waycross, GA, that was designated as an evacuation point and staging location. The BrushMaster© cleared this land in excess of 1 acre per hour. The Georgia Forestry Commission also requested that Kut Kwick help with the fire threatened “Okefenokee Swamp Park.” Kut Kwick responded immediately and in approximately one hour was clearing the brush at the park. All of the brush was removed around the buildings, other facilities. Natural fire breaks were enhanced by removing brush in front of them. All of this was done within three hours by one machine completing the protection of the Park. This week we were called to remove the brush around two homes in the Argyle, Georgia area to exemplify “firewise” practices. The cutting of this area demonstrated the maneuverability of the machines. The area was covered with obstacles. It took 4 hours for two machines to clear this 6 ½ acres. The job was well done. The area is now considered to be “firewise.”

Kut Kwick continues to offer at, no charge, the services of operators along with the BrushMaster© machines to deal with the terrible fires that we are now experiencing in our area.

“Each machine Kut Kwick builds and sells over and beyond its normal sales volume results in one more job in Georgia for one year. “

YouTube Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ1BqhLPyBA>

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