



Figure 6. H Frame Strainer

9.16 Fire

The potential fire risk to proposed plantations in high fire risk areas should be assessed and methods to reduce risks devised, described and implemented. This is a requirement for grant approval. The presence of any flammable vegetation such as purple moor grass, furze and heather is a strong indication that a firebreak is required. Firebreaks need regular maintenance while a risk exists.

Firebreaks should constitute a fuel free zone of 6m in width and should normally be placed along the external boundaries of plantations. However, in blocks of 60 ha or more, internal firebreaks, roads or other fuel free zones should be considered. Most fires spread from adjoining lands into forests and for that reason firebreaks are most often on the forest boundary. However they are an intensive form of soil disturbance so it is important to depart from the boundary when constructing them if archaeological, water quality, biodiversity or other issues demand. In these instances the appropriate buffer and exclusion zones must be observed and the firebreak must be made the required distance back from the features. Landscape considerations may also dictate that part or all of the firebreak should depart from the forest boundary and be made inside the forest.

Large forest properties (>60 ha) where there is a fire risk should be served by reservoirs as an aid to fire control. The acceptable specification for a reservoir is a minimum capacity of 22,700 litres (5000 Gallons).

A reservoir should be fully operational during fire danger periods and easily accessible to vehicles. All reservoirs should be adequately fenced.