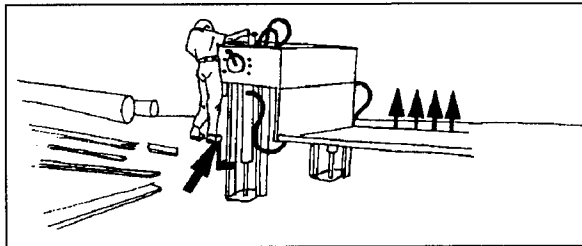


# BUSH BULLETIN

## Portable plant accidents

Two recent accidents with portable plant highlight the need for vigilant ongoing maintenance, proper training, use of manufacturers' safety equipment and attention to the job in hand. Lets look at these accidents.

### Burst hose causes collapse of portable mill



An operator was fortunate to escape with only minor injuries in a portable mill accident.

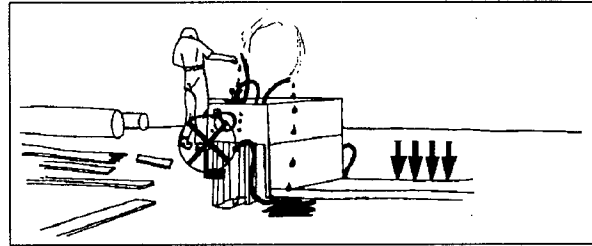
#### What happened

Mill work had finished at the site for the day and cleaning up was taking place.

The mill was being lifted to it's maximum height to allow the loader access for cleaning up.

As the controls cannot be operated properly once the mill is raised, a drum was normally used to stand on to give the required height. In this case, however, the worker decided to stand on the height-adjusting rod to get high enough to work the controls.

As the mill was being raised, a hydraulic hose burst causing the mill to fall. This forced the adjusting rod through the worker's boot and fortunately passing between the first and second toes.



#### Accident cause

1. Burst hydraulic hose. Examination showed that the hose had been nicked by the saw. It was not cut right through but was obviously weakened.
2. Failure to use the step provided by the mill manufacturers. The step had been taken off as it gets in the way when small logs are being sawn. Its main use is to place the operator high enough so that the controls can be safely operated when the mill is raised to handle large logs.

#### Prevention

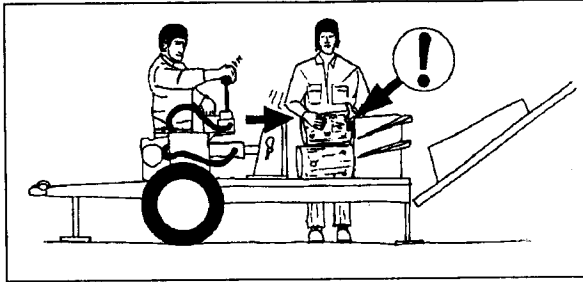
1. Regular daily checks of hydraulic hoses and immediate replacement of any worn or damaged hoses.
2. Non removal and use of all safety equipment, guards or provisions provided by the manufacturer.

#### Recent fatalities

Two people involved in felling trees and one person working on skids suffered fatal injuries

during January. These accidents are being investigated and will be reported on in our next three-monthly summary of fatals and accidents.

## Portable splitter accident



A volunteer worker suffered partial severance of a hand while attempting to operate a portable splitter.

### What happened

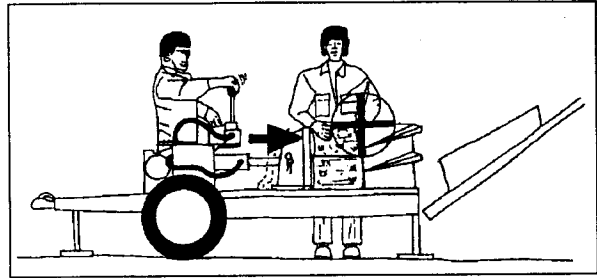
A group of people were splitting firewood blocks to raise money to attend biennial competitions and conference.

Prior to the commencement of the job, two members of the group received instruction from the owner in the operation of the splitter.

The group was employed as follows:

- The two instructed people were to operate the splitter.
- Three were to carry logs to the splitter and do hand splitting of smaller logs by axe.
- Three were to off-load the elevator and stack the material.

The splitter was moved closer to the log heap and there was soon a surplus of material stacked ready for splitting.



A member of the fetch and carry team decided to speed the splitting process and placed a block of wood on top of one already in the splitter. He held it in place removing his right hand as the ram closed but failed to notice that his left hand was coming into contact with the cutter blade. The injury that resulted partially severed his left hand.

### Accident cause

Factors contributing to the accident include:

- Lack of proper supervision by splitter operators.
- Carrying out an unauthorised task in order to try and speed up production.
- Unfamiliarity with the log splitter.

### Prevention

When voluntary parties are to carry out work with machines they are not familiar with, instruction must be given to members of the team who are to become operators and **only they are to operate the machine.**

### Trainee forestry inspectors

Four trainee forestry inspectors attended a five-day course run by Waiariki Polytechnic Forestry Technical Group. The course was designed to test their forestry knowledge and skills.

### Training seminar

Forestry inspectors will attend a training seminar at Napier later this month to bring

them up to date with recent legislation and developments in the operational side of forestry work. There will be an opportunity for inspectors to bring up topics for discussion.

If you have anything that you think could be of interest to this group, bring it up with your local forestry inspector.