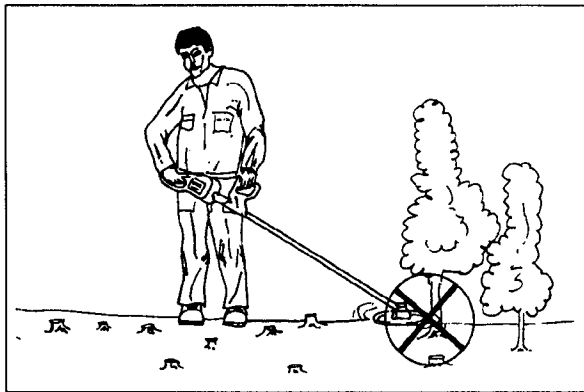


## Altered grass cutter causes kickback accident



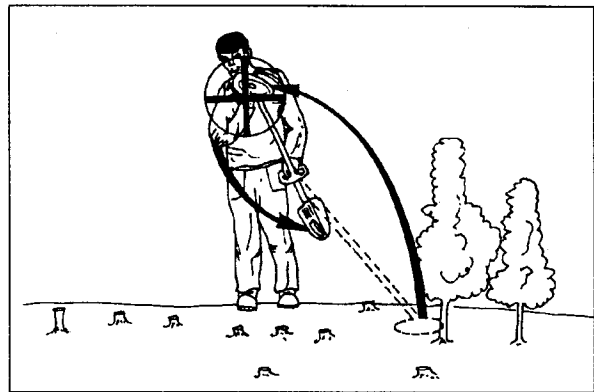
A young worker suffered severe lacerations in a kickback accident.

### What happened

The worker was using a Jonsered Model GT 32L grass cutter fitted with a 200 mm tungsten tip circular saw blade to clear small scrub around trees. The rotating blade struck an object causing a kickback reaction. The operator released his grip on the handle and the weight of the motor falling downwards and the kickback force raised the rotating blade towards the operator's body. He suffered lacerations as he raised his right hand for protection.

### Accident cause

The machine was fitted with an incorrect circular saw blade. The importer states that the model is designed and sold as a grass cutter fitted with a nylon head, a steel guard and a grass cutting blade. It is not designed to be



used on any vegetation except grass and not designed for the fitting of a circular saw blade. A shoulder harness was provided but not worn by the operator.

### Prevention

Obviously the wrong model for the job had been purchased and the alterations to the cutting head would not have been condoned by the manufacturer.

The brand supplies larger models which are designed for scrub cutting and releasing work, and fitted with a full harness and other safety features.

### Remember:

1. Use the correct tool for the job.
2. Do not alter or remove parts of a machine without the manufacturer's approval.

# Transport news — good and bad

## Tyre pressure control systems

Tyre pressure control systems are reasonably new to New Zealand. A LIRO newsletter gives details of the installation of the system on logging trucks operating in Northland and on the East Coast of the North Island.

### What does the system do and what benefits are there for forest owners and transport operators?

The system gives vehicle operators the ability to adjust tyre pressures while on the move to suit vehicle load, road conditions and speed.

For the forest owner, the benefits are reduced road maintenance and construction costs as tyre pressures are adjusted to match road conditions.

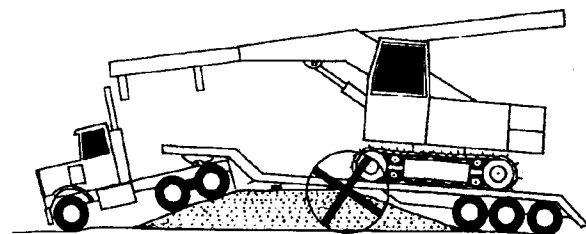
For the transport operator the benefits are many:

- Reduced tyre wear and damage.
- Improved traction in wet or frozen conditions.
- Better ability to climb adverse grades.
- Reduced vibration and shock loading.
- Improved driver comfort.
- Reduced chassis and cab damage.
- Lower tyre pressures give higher travel speeds on forestry and secondary roads.

For the transport operator this converts into reduced vehicle maintenance costs and the ability to continue to operate in conditions when the vehicles would normally be parked up.

## Mind that train!

After being demonstrated at the Forest Industries 1994 at Rotorua, the Timberline delimeter and processor, described in Bush Bulletin No. 84, was on its delivery trip. The transporter carrying the machine was bellied as it crossed the Murapara/Kawerau railway line. There was no system in place to stop any trains and a log train hit the transporter causing extensive damage and write-off of the delimeter and processor.



Since the accident, an emergency number in Hamilton has been made available. From Hamilton they have direct contact with the engine driver.

## Bush Bulletin distribution

The main distribution points for Bush Bulletins are through inspectors (forestry) who distribute them to people engaged in forestry work in their areas and the New Zealand Logger's Association who circulate them to their members. There is also a mailing list, handled by Tim Kyne, in the OSH General Manager's

Office if you cannot obtain a copy through the inspector or are not a member of the Logger's Association.

We are always looking for material, so if you have an item of interest, send it to your area inspector or to Lester Bell at OSH, Box 3705, Wellington.