

FORESTRY BULLETIN

Bush fatalities and serious accidents January - March 1995

Logging

Fatality

A chainsaw was placed in the cab of a digger-type loader. The hydraulic control lever was disconnected and the weight of the saw activated the drive pedal, the machine moved forward and ran over the deceased.

This accident is detailed on the reverse side of this Bush Bulletin.

Serious accidents 40

Activity	Cause	
Felling	10 Hit by falling object	8
Trimming	7 Hit by moving object	12
Breaking out	5 Hit object	3
Skid work	7 Contact object carried	3
Stacking/sorting	2 Slip/slide	5
Loading	1 Trip/stumble	4
Driving/operating	2 Fall	2
Access	6 Lifting/stretching	1
	Kickback	1
	Mechanical malfunction	1
	40	40

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	7 Fracture	10
Branch	5 Dislocation	2
Log	11 Sprain/strain	6
Tree	2 Foreign body	1
Skidder	3 Amputation	1
Rigging	2 Laceration	11
Vehicle	3 Bruise	2
Dead spar	2 Crushing	6
Terrain	4 Multiple	1
Shrub	1	
	40	40

Body part		
Head	2 Back	1
Shoulder	1 Knee	2
Arm	5 Leg	8
Hand	3 Foot	10
Trunk	4 Multiple	4
		39

See further information on these figures at the bottom of the next page.

The accidents in these tables were reported to Occupational Safety and Health during January - March 1995.

Forestry and tree work

Fatalities — 2

Using a tractor, a firewood gatherer was felling a large, heavily-branched pine tree against the lean. His saw was too small and he was unable to determine the depths of the cuts. He left too little holding wood and the tree screwed off the stump and struck the deceased.

During tree maintenance under power lines, while felling trees to provide line clearance, the chainsaw operator was struck from behind by a dead tree which was possibly tangled in the tree being felled.

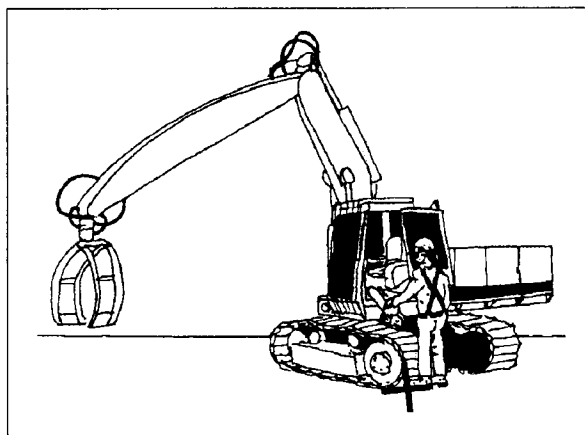
Serious accidents 23

Activity	Cause	
Land preparation	1 Hit by falling object	2
Nursery	1 Hit by moving object	3
Pruning	14 Hit object	1
Thinning	3 Contact object carried	2
Felling	1 Slip/slide	3
Firewood	1 Trip/stumble	3
Arboriculture pruning	1 Lifting/stretching	1
Arboriculture section felling	1 Repetitive movement	1
	Kickback	2
	Mechanical malfunction	1
	Contact material/liquid	1
	Fall	3
	23	23

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	5 Fracture	3
Branch	1 Dislocation	1
Tree	2 Sprain/strain	
Shrub	2 Internal	1
Hand tool	4 Amputation	1
Terrain	4 Laceration	8
Ladder	3 Bruise	2
Vehicle	1 Crushing	1
Structure	1 Foreign body	1
	Puncture	1
	23	23

Body part		
Head	1 Knee	1
Arm	5 Leg	3
Hand	4 Foot	4
Trunk	4 Multiple	1
		23

Hydraulic excavator loader fatality



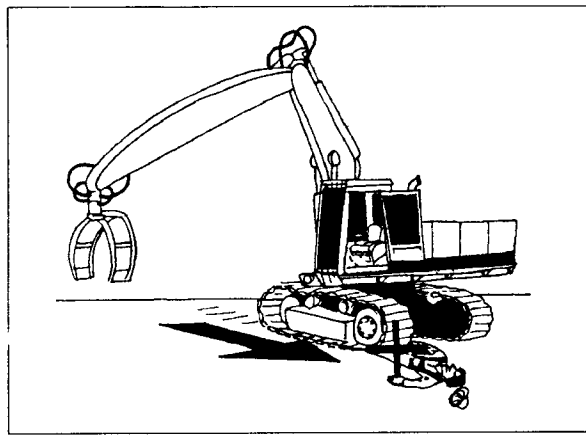
A crew boss was run over and crushed by the unexpected movement of a parked and running machine.

What happened

A crew was logging a farmer's plantation on flat country using a skidder and hydraulic excavator loader. The crew boss operated the loader. He had driven the loader a short distance away from the skid and got off. The machine was left running, believed to be between quarter and half revs. He then placed his chain saw into the loader cab. He was getting back on to the digger when it suddenly moved forward, trapping his left leg under the tracks and then running over him.

Accident cause

When the crew boss put the saw into the cab, it was placed on the drive pedal. The hydraulic direction control lever was nonoperational allowing the loader to move when the drive pedal was depressed by the weight of the saw.



Prevention

The two critical factors were:

- Operating a machine with a non-operational safety device.
- Placing equipment in a cab not designed for the purpose.

Those of you in the southern areas will have received a local bush bulletin from Alex Iremonger, inspector (forestry) Invercargill. The main points from this were that although all hydraulic excavator-type loaders and diggers are fitted with a safety directional control lever, some disengage the hydraulic pumps and render the machine immobile while in others, only the rotation of the machine is immobilised.

- Make sure that the control lever is operational and you know what it does on your machine.
- If in any doubt, check the manufacturer's operation manual or get information from your local dealer.
- Never carry any loose tools or equipment in the cab of your machine.

From front page

There were a large number of injuries in felling with the operator being hit by branches, spars and trees. Skid work accidents mainly involved being hit by logs as they were moved in some way by hauling or stacking machines.

As in the December quarter, pruners continued to be the people being wounded. Mishaps with ladders and hand tools, problems during access from tree to tree, either slipping, falling or contact with impeding vegetation are the main causes.