

HAZARD ALERT

Beware around processing head danger areas



Background:

A senior machine operator had his left hand partially severed during fault finding maintenance, where log processing chainsaw bar oiler had stopped working; the harvest operator has maneuvered the machine from the cut over to the skid site, to investigate the oiler problem

The operators had removed the chain bar oiler pump, the pump was dismantled, cleaned and refitted to the log processing head.

The operators had decided to test run the log processing head (new model 624 Waratah) to ensure to oiler pump was working correctly.

The harvester operator had started the harvester, activated the chainsaw bar control, the chainsaw bar had cycled, The other machine operator was standing back approx three metres, he could not see the end of the oiler hose, so walked towards the log processor reached into make the hose more visible.

Unaware that 8-10 second into its cutting cycle, the (new model 624) Waratah's chainsaw bar automatically retracts, the operator came too close and was struck with considerable force on the wrist, which causing a severe laceration of the wrist and breaking both of the bones in the forearm

Safe practice checklist:

- Ensure machine is brought to zero energy state prior to any maintenance
- Follow Manufactures recommendation/warning labels on maintenance and fault finding
- Never place any part of your body within a danger area as outlined in maintenance manual
- If fellow work mates are helping with fault finding ensure they are aware of function cycles and computer quirks

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM