

# **HAZARD ALERT**

## **Swing Yarder Guyline Failure**



**Background:** A Swing Yarder operator escaped injury during inhaul when one guy line snapped and another extension failed when movement occurred at the “wrap and go back” stump anchors, triggering a catastrophic rigging failure, causing the swing yarder to lay over onto its side leaning against the excavator with a Waratah processing head.

The Swing yarder operator was unable to exit the normal door due to the height and lean of the machine. The Operator used the secondary exit leaving the cab out the emergency door behind the operators seat.

Careful assessment was made of the situation and equipment to salvage the swing yarder without further damage, the crew made the appropriate phone calls, and made the decision to pull the swing yarder back onto its tracks again.

### **Learning from this;**

- Ensure all guy line anchor stumps are sufficient size and correct height of solid wood above the notch,
- Ensure that guy ropes do not override if a “wrap and go back” stump anchoring system is employed,
- Careful planning of guy-line anchor stump at point of felling or plan skid size to allow for installation of dead men.
- Ensure a hauler log book is available to record all maintenance, age of ropes, guy line and extensions, this forms part of the evidence needed for tower certification & company requirements
- Guy lines should be checked daily by a competent person, and best practice would suggest this guyline check should be recorded.