



Breaker-out injured by moving wire rope



INCIDENT

A 24-year-old breaker-out received bruising and facial injuries when he was struck by a moving wire rope.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The breaker-out made a line shift by having a strawline sent back and the line then placed around the bottom side of a ridge. This was done to bring the mainrope closer to the remaining logs to be hauled.

The hauler operator then took the strain up on the tailrope, causing the mainrope to return to its original position, i.e. in a direct line from the tailrope block to the hauler tower. The rope hit the breaker-out across the shoulders, throwing him against a stump.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the breaker-out was:

- Standing in the bight of the rope
- Making a line shift downhill around the bottom of a ridge without relocating the tailrope block
- Not moving to a safe position

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

- Ensure the tailrope line from the tailrope block to the hauler tower is as straight as practicable
- Do not stand in the bight, underneath or close by any operating rope.

Note: This material has been prepared using the best information available to the Department of Labour at the time of publication. Information may change over time and it may be necessary for you to obtain an update. This material is also only intended to provide general advice and does not constitute legal advice. You should make your own judgement about action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with your workplace health and safety obligations under the law.

