



## Breaker-out killed when log on drag upended



### INCIDENT

A breaker-out was killed when a log on a drag snagged on a rock outcrop, swung up in an arc and struck him.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

The breaker-outs were on a slope and had hooked on two logs in the gully below. The logs were hauled up but snagged when they reached a small rock outcrop. The workers hooked two further logs on to the drag and signalled to the hauler driver to continue hauling.

The end of one log jammed under the rock outcrop. The free end swung up in an arc, landed on one of the breaker-outs and killed him.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the breaker-outs were standing too close to the drag.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

Before signaling the breakout move:

- Out of reach of any log swinging or upending — at least the length of the longest log away;
- Into a position where movement will not be constricted.

This situation could easily have led to a double fatality as the second breaker-out was standing only two metres away from the worker who was killed.

When the logs snagged on the rock outcrop, the tail rope block should have been shifted a few stumps.

### TO WHICH INDUSTRIES/SECTORS OR MATTERS WILL THIS INFORMATION BE RELEVANT?

- Forestry
- Mobile plant

*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.*

