



Face slashed when chainsaw kicked back



INCIDENT

A 32-year-old tree faller received lacerations to the face that left him permanently scarred.

CIRCUMSTANCES

While he was cutting the top of a scarf, the chainsaw he was operating kicked back when it struck the uncut corner of the scarf on the far side of the tree.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the tree faller was:

- Not paying attention to the task.
- Not maintaining correct body position.
- Attempting to complete the scarf-cut from one side of the tree.
- Not holding the chainsaw firmly in two hands, i.e. with thumb and fingers gripped firmly around the front handle and the front arm held straight in a locked position.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

- If the cutter bar does not cover the required area, move around the tree to complete the scarf-cut.
- Adopt the correct body position and maintain a firm grip on the front grip on the front handle of the chainsaw.

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