



Farmer Died when Snared by Wire Rope



INCIDENT

A 41-year-old farmer died when he was snared by a wire (strop) while preparing to haul a felled tree.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The farmer was preparing to extract a felled tree with his small Fiat bulldozer.

One end of a 6metre long wire rope was attached to the bulldozer's drawbar. The free end of the wire rope was doubled across the farmer's lap as he operated the machine.

While manoeuvring in reverse, a looped portion of the rope caught on the bulldozer's track plates. The rope was pulled tight around the seat, trapping the farmer.

A tree faller who was assisting with the operation went to his assistance but the farmer died in hospital from severe abdominal injuries.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that

- There was a clear lack of understanding of the hazards involved.
- The bulldozer should have had a certified protective structure fitted.
- The bulldozer should have had hooks fitted at rear of the machine to hang strops from.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

All mobile plant used in forestry work shall meet minimum standards required for protective structures.

All people working in the forestry industry must ensure that they are competent, trained or under training for the tasks they are carrying out.

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.

