



Skid worker hurt by swinging log

INCIDENT

A 42-year-old skid worker received a serious injury when a log swung round in an arc and hit him. His ribs were fractured and lungs punctured.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The skidder operator released the drag of five logs. The skid worker was unable to release two of the logs. He signalled the operator to pull these logs forward and back off.

The skidder operator tensioned the rope backed up over the logs and stops. He then drove forward and turned the machine, causing a log to strike a stationary log which swung and hit the worker, who was moving forward to unhook the logs.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that the:

- Skidder operator did not follow the signals given.
- Skid size was too large and resulted in the machine turning to move away from the released drag.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

- Ensure signals are followed.
- Drive directly forward until all chain stops are unhooked and free of the logs.
- If for any reason the machine must turn to proceed from a released drag, the skid worker must be positioned clear of any log that may swing.

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.

