



## Tree faller not seen by Skidder Operator



### INCIDENT

A Tree Faller was seriously injured when trimming a log that had been felled across a gully.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

The log being trimmed by the tree faller was moved by the skidder as it was extracting a drag close by. This movement caused the faller to lose his balance and he fell off the log onto the rotating chain of his chainsaw.

### INVESTIGATION

The skidder was working too close to the faller and both workers could not see each other properly because of the undergrowth.

The tree faller's left arm was severely lacerated and he now has a permanent disability.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

Ensure all operational (extraction and tree felling) plans are clearly discussed and understood prior to the start of work, particularly when -machinery is involved.

This should be part of the site-specific hazard identification and management process employed by the company.

*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.*

