

INDUSTRY ALERT

HAZARD

Prop rod not used, feller buncher's gull wing almost collapses on worker

What happened?

When they are opened, the gull wing enclosures on a feller buncher are supported by a prop rod, much like the rod that holds open the hood of an automobile. In this case, a worker opened the gull wings to service a feller buncher but he did not use the prop rod to secure them. An O-ring on the hydraulically activated cylinder that operates the gull wings was damaged and the gull wing nearly collapsed on him.

Why did it happen?

The worker ignored standard safety practice, which is to ensure that the prop rod is securely holding the gull wing open when work is being done on the feller buncher.

How can it be prevented?

Mechanical systems such as the hydraulic cylinders that operate the gull wings should not be solely relied upon while doing repair or maintenance work. Available safety devices such as a prop rod should always be used.

www.ofswa.on.ca

OFSWA Ontario Forestry Safe
Workplace Association

ASTIFO Association pour la sécurité au travail
dans l'industrie forestière de l'Ontario

Although the description of circumstances arises from an actual situation, this Industry Alert does not reflect the final analysis of the situation, nor is it meant to assign blame on the part of any person or member firm. For further information, contact OFSWA at (705) 474-7233.