

INDUSTRY ALERT

FATALITY

Sawmill worker crushed trying to remove broken logs underneath log turner

What happened?

The operator of a machine equipped with a DDM6 log-turning device was attempting to remove broken logs from the waste chute underneath the infeed. The machine suddenly lowered, crushing the worker. He was rushed to hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Why did it happen?

The log turner did not have a guard that prevented the operator from coming into contact with its moving parts, and the machine was not shut off, locked out or blocked against all movement before the operator went under it to remove the broken logs.

How can it be prevented?

Virtually all of the recent fatal or critical incidents in Ontario's various forest industry sectors were lockout-related:

- In 2003, the operator of a feller buncher was crushed to death by the feed rollers of his machine while he performed maintenance work on it.
- In 2003, a sawmill worker died when he crawled under an edger while it was operating and his head came into contact with the saw's blades.
- In 2004, a particle board mill worker was crushed to death while performing maintenance work on a particle board press.
- In 2004, a sawmill worker died when he became entangled in equipment while trying to remove debris from a conveyor in the hog area.

When developing specific lockout procedures, it's essential that all uncontrolled energy hazards be recognized, assessed and controlled. Prior to cleaning, oiling, adjusting, repairing or performing any other adjustments to machinery, specific lockout procedures must include verification steps of all hazardous energies to ensure that the equipment is in a zero-energy state.

Effective guarding or barriers must be provided that will fully prevent access to any moving parts. For more information, refer to CSA Standard Z432-04, *Safeguarding of Machinery*.

Your local OFSWA Consultant Trainer is available to assist with any necessary upgrades to your lockout policy and procedures. Additional information on lockout and guarding is also available from OFSWA by calling 705-474-7233 or by visiting our website, www.ofswa.on.ca.

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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. For details on Ministry of Labour prosecutions regarding recent health and safety incidents in Ontario workplaces, visit www.labour.gov.on.ca and click on "News Releases".