

BOOM! Don't Light Up! – Update



Incident recap: During May 2015, a skidworker sustained serious burns when his cigarette (or perhaps lighter) ignited fuel that had spilt from the chainsaw onto his clothing and body. We identified the root cause as ‘smoking while using petrol (or a petrol powered device)’ and that ‘fuel-spills are common’ and have led to fires on several occasions. We identified an ‘ever present risk’ when working with fuels!



Read – Discuss: Our previous Safety Bulletin then advised everyone to read and follow the rules contained in the ACoP at 4.1.6 and in our contracts i.e. the sections that cover refuelling and smoking in particular!

Additionally, we asked for this incident to be ‘discussed at your next safety meeting’ – to see what ‘additional steps’ could be applied to ensure everyone stays safe! **Have you completed this request?**

In response to this incident: The Harvesting Contractor at the centre of this incident has put in place a revised hazard management plan for both its crews. Together with employees¹, it has decided the following new controls (additional steps):

In both crews, workers shall not smoke when operating chainsaws and in the safe zone. In relation to crew 1, the only time/place workers can smoke is when the crew is travelling between skid sites in the van or on lunch breaks. Crew 2 is slightly different in that it now has a **designated smoking area**, which is 7m away from the safe zone and marked (with a sign) ‘smoking area’.

While not trying to be overly prescriptive i.e. with generic rules, we do support the effort that this Contractor has taken to improve, and we encourage all others to do the same!

¹When deciding matters that involve smoking in workplaces – please refer to the [Smoke-free Environments Act 1990](#)

Access/Egress Incidents Increasing!

FIPS 7138 24/06/2015 LTI “...the loader operator dismounted and lost his footing followed by his hand grip. He fell backwards to the ground ...fracturing his thumb”

FIPS 7173 06/07/2015 MTI “...a mechanical land preparation operator slipped on the step as he was climbing into his excavator, striking the edge of the track with his right knee.”

Access and egress incidents have increased!
In some part this is due to the wet conditions, however there are other important factors.

The **BPG Mobile Plant** from page 19 provides a useful checklist to ensure that we are all taking reasonably practicable steps to review these factors and provide a safe work environment!



Climbing into or out of a cab – follow the checklist!

- ✓ Maintain 3 points of contact while climbing.
- ✓ Face the machine when climbing or dismounting.
- ✓ Monitor the state of the ladder (e.g., ice, mud, water, oil ...) and clean if necessary.
- ✓ Do not jump from a machine.
- ✓ Do not use either the steering wheel or any control lever.
- ✓ Do not climb off a moving machine.
- ✓ Align the cab with the undercarriage centreline – as appropriate.

A review of our newest machines shows a high degree of manufacturer innovation around footholds, handgrips and ladder devices. However, some older machines are deficient in this respect! Apart from keeping older machines clean, please consider how to improve machine access, perhaps by retrofitting some of these latest innovations.