

# A Safety Message from the CEO

## Challenges – but good ones!

50,000 hectares of trees planted during 2017 and there are plans to double that each year over the next 10 years. Recent history tells us that the forest industry can achieve this goal, however, it will require your help!

The most formidable part of the challenge will be satisfying the labour requirements and doing it in a way that meets all our non-negotiable objectives – at the top of the list, completing the job safely!



With unemployment at low levels (currently 4.6%), competition from all trades for workers is intense. That's why forestry needs to be the top choice in the minds of young people, their parents and educators alike. How will that happen?

- **Work with schools and polytechs to increase match fitness** – forestry work is physically demanding, but very satisfying. It ticks a lot of the boxes e.g. outdoor fresh air job with flows into Kiwi favourites like hunting and fishing.
- **Current workers champion our industry** – you are the best advertisement for our industry. Our current workers are highly trained professionals; a status that has only increased with mechanisation. Experienced professionals don't take shortcuts. They don't want mistakes to impact on their reputation. The collective reputation of the industry must be a positive one!
- **Collaborate to improve work methods and conditions** – we have seen a big benefit in working with our contractors on matters that concern us both. We want to hear all the ideas and work hard on the best of them to bring about change and improvements. The message is simple – Speak up and Join up!

Let us rise to these challenges in 2018 and the decade to come!

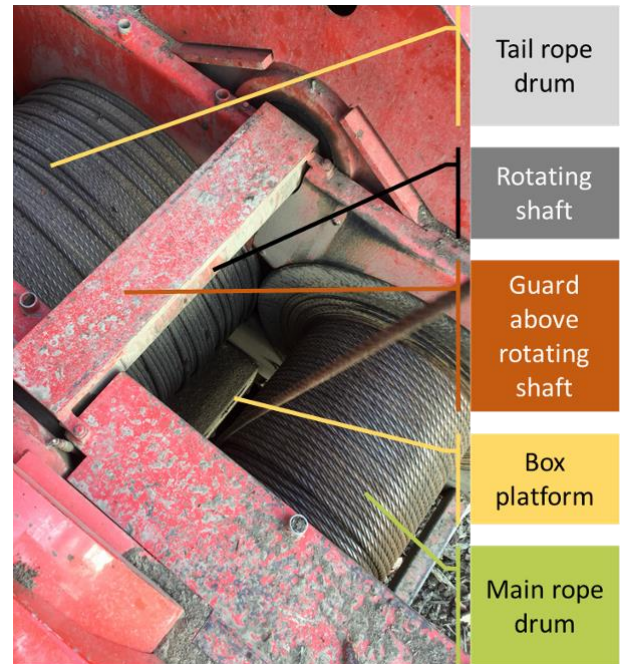
*Peter Clark*

# Guarding Those Moving Parts!

## Background – Noggin INC458 9/10/17

A worker was standing between the tail and main rope drums on what is described as a box platform. He was assisting as the hauler was winding on a new tail rope and leaned back onto the guarding, which was positioned over a rotating shaft.

In this position his Hi-Viz vest entered the gap between the shaft and the guard and winding around the shaft pulled him in toward it. Fortunately, he was able to signal the hauler operator who put the machine into neutral, then in reverse to release the vest and prevent serious harm!



## Learning from this Incident...

Three very experienced hauler contractors reviewed this incident and each concluded that the worker concerned should never have been standing on the platform between the drums. However, workers at the site considered this to be a safe position to the point where they had discussed "...removing the guard when standing on the box platform"!

Some key points of learning from this incident are as follows:

- [ ] No loose clothing during any operation involving rope guidance onto hauler drums.
- [ ] No standing or crouching inside cavities i.e. below the top level of the drums where a worker would be exposed to a risk of being pulled into the drum or the winding ropes.
- [ ] Cover access routes and work platforms with non-slip material.
- [ ] Only use the recommended (or manufacturer provided) tools to guide the ropes onto the drums e.g. guiding staves.
- [ ] Never remove any of the installed guarding – on any machine for that matter.
- [ ] Install a lagged drum sleeve (grooved drum) – a new innovation discussed on page 3.

# NEW – Lagged Drum Sleeves!

**Get More Life Out of Wire Rope** (and save lives and limbs in the process) ...

Extend the life of wire rope by equipping winch drums with SpoolPro® Grooved Drums and Sleeves. SpoolPro®’s unique groove pattern allows wire rope to wind straight onto the drum (parallel to flanges) reducing wear on the rope, making it safer to use winch systems and limiting downtime. Follow [SpoolPro® on Facebook](#) for regular updates.


## Watch it on YouTube

The [3D Industrial Engineering](#) website (click on the hyperlink) shows a list of 13 custom-made to fit recent installs on commonly used haulers; some in PF Olsen operations.

According to those Contractors and the product’s advertising and specifications the sleeves have the following benefits:

- Less time and labour needed to wind the rope onto the drum.
- Less man machine interaction, improving safety, and
- Reduced wear on the ropes, providing up to four months extra utilisation.



Source: 3D Industrial Engineering  
 **YouTube**  
[Fitting SpoolPro® Split Sleeves.](#)  
[SpoolPro® At Speed – Real Time Footage](#)

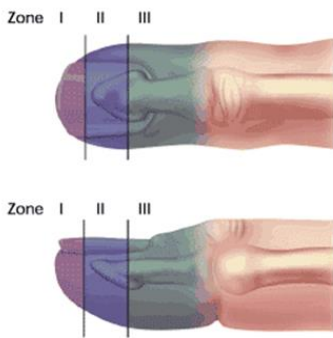


## Champions’ Meeting – Demo

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, Matt Field (a director at 3D Industrial Engineering) will attend the CNI Safety Champion’s meeting to demonstrate the SpoolPro® Grooved Drums and Sleeves.

We will also have our trialist contractors present so you can hear first-hand how the new equipment is working, saving time and keeping people safe.

# Maintenance – Always a Risk!



## Operator loses his fingertip!

### Background – Noggin INC554 9/11/17

A qualified machine operator (a crew foreman) and the crew mechanic were lifting off the main saw box cover completing a routine task. They were trying to find a persistent oil leak in the processor head and had been working on the 800-series machine for approximately 2 hours. The cover (weighing 15kg) slipped from the operator’s left hand dropping onto his right-hand index finger.

### Injury, Treatment and Investigation

The operator’s finger was amputated just below the top of the finger nail. He was driven to Rotorua hospital and had surgery to remove some broken bone and to close the skin over the wound. He was released from hospital that evening. WorkSafe NZ inspected the incident site and concluded the safety and crew’s training records were in good order.

### Contributing Factors – 3

**Design fault** – causing those completing maintenance to work in a manner that could cause injury. Unlike more recent models the 800-series machine did not have handles on its saw-box cover. Typically, screwdrivers would be used to lever off the saw-box cover (see – yellow arrow), then two people would manually lift it out and off, in this case using fingertips. Woodsman has subsequently produced a handle (see – green) for retro-fitting, [assembly instructions, a safety bulletin](#)<sup>1</sup> and a training package.

**Long work hours** – causing frustration and a lack of concentration.

**Not wearing PPE** – wearing gloves may have provided more grip.

<sup>1</sup> PF Olsen employees can access this information by clicking on the hyperlink. Contractors are encouraged to contact: **David Cox | Managing Director | Engineering Services (Rotorua) Ltd | TEL: +64 7 348 1286 | Email: [david@ensgin.co.nz](mailto:david@ensgin.co.nz)**

# Chainsaw Cuts – Never Pretty!



**Background to Noggin INC570 22/11/17** – A tree feller was trimming branches when the stem suddenly moved causing him to lose his footing and balance. His wrist then made contact with the spinning chain severing two tendons.

**Qualifications and Experience** – L4 National Certificate in tree Felling; 20 years forestry industry experience with 10 of those working as a tree feller.

**Immediate and Root Cause Factors** – In this incident, a moving stem caused the chainsaw operator to lose his balance. This occurred due to the need to manually trim the larger branches.

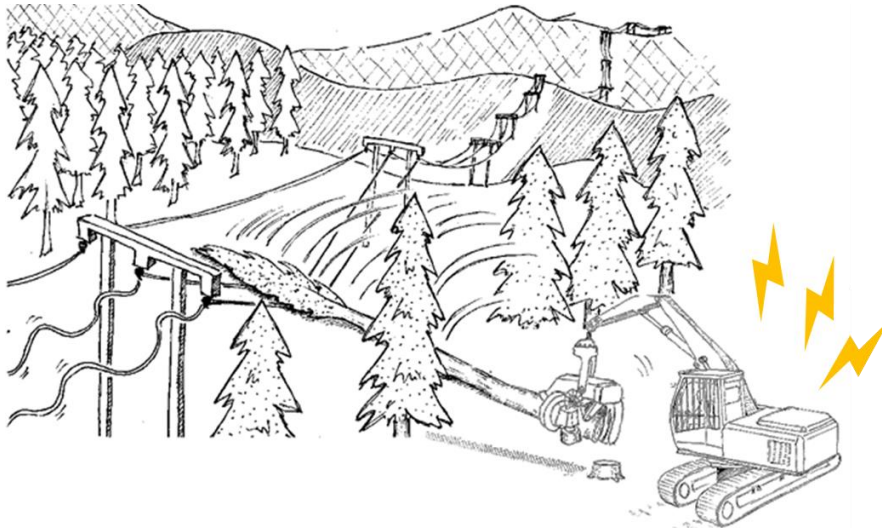
**Injuries, First Aid and Medical Treatment** – The observer immediately applied first aid stopping blood-flow with a tourniquet. The injured tree feller was then driven to Hospital where he was assessed and operated on. His wrist will remain in a plaster cast for 6 weeks at which time we hope he will be healed and ready to return to light work.



## Tips for Safe Chainsaw Operation...

- Ensure that stem placement allows for sufficient room to work – see **ACOP rule 13.2.3!**
- If stems appear to be unstable, direct a machine to reposition them.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands and use the correct stance and work techniques.
- Routinely check the condition of protective equipment (PPE) and chainsaw safety devices.

# Still Knocking Over Live Lines?



**Description for Noggin INC511 31/10/17** – During mechanised felling a tree snapped off the stump and fell over live power lines leaving the live lines across a public road.

**Investigation** – PF Olsen has a robust guidance (Safe Op – Working Near Live Power Lines). When followed, it provides a safe outcome for work around live power lines. In this incident, some parts of the Safe Op were not applied, and one small part was misapplied, as follows:

- Inadequate warning system – the fall hazard zone (FHZ) had not been marked.
- The ‘Live Line’ form (linked to the Company Safe Op) had not been correctly completed. Rather than working through the hierarchy of controls we accepted the Network Owner’s ‘Close Work Permit’ as a licence to operate without all appropriate controls in place.
- The Safe Op directs that the FHZ distance be measured by using the height of the tallest tree not the mean tree height, as in this case.
- Inadequate and untimely communications with the Network Operator – meaning that the lines could not be de-livened.
- The operator was also operating under ‘upset conditions’ thinking about a family member.

Live power lines are a hazard with high risk of serious injury or death, and anyone working around them must follow the Safe Op! Please also be aware that WorkSafe NZ has recently published its own guidance document – **A Practice Framework and Operational Guidance**<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> PF Olsen recently received a copy of this publication at a forestry group meeting and will provide a link when available.