

A Safety Message from the CEO

Tena Koutou;

Nga mihi mo te tau hou – best wishes for the New Year!

Taking the opportunity provided by this safety bulletin, I thought to discuss principle-based leadership with a safety context given a lot of our people come back to work very soon after a well-deserved and hopefully enjoyable Christmas break.

I know everyone will be extra vigilant after the break as we all reacquaint ourselves with the rigours of work and I will leave this to others more qualified to discuss elsewhere.



What is your why? What do you believe is important?

We believe everyone who comes to work with us has the right to go home unharmed to their family at the end of the day. We also believe our families and friends should expect us home unharmed everyday as well. To this end, we would like the people who work with us, be they suppliers, staff, clients, or business partners to have the same beliefs.

A simplistic view of principled-based leadership is behaving consistent with your beliefs. If you believe as we do, actions speak louder than words. Leadership is about the things you do, and the things you don't do, that align to these principles. It is worth mentioning here that we don't need to be in a leadership position to be a leader. Everyone can demonstrate positive behaviour, and through that be a leader. It is also worth mentioning that allowing behaviour in others without addressing imparts tacit approval that this behaviour is acceptable. Walking past something unsafe doesn't fit with principled-based leadership.

As we return to work this year, there will be processes and procedures to address, paperwork, administrative duties and the like, and we get that these can be demotivating for some of us who are action oriented. Let's be clear, sometimes we must do things we are less than enthusiastic about to achieve the results we want. Everyone has the right to go home unharmed and can do if we all lead in a manner consistent with our principles.

Nga Mihi

Te Kapunga Dewes

Caution – Mechanic on Site!

Background – Noggin INC1365 11/09/18

A mechanic was on site doing repairs to the hauler. While walking around the hauler he tripped over a stick and fell knee first onto the end of a log platform (corduroy the hauler was sitting upon). The full force of his weight split open the skin on his kneecap!

The mechanic received 9 staples to close the split/wound but may have been saved from harm had he been made aware of this risk.



Minding Our PCBU's

Section 37 of the HSW Act 2015 applies to a PCBU in relation to our Authorised Visitors and Service Providers (AVSP) e.g. this mechanic. The relevant clause states:

“... A PCBU who manages or controls a workplace must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the workplace, the means of entering and exiting the workplace, and anything arising from the workplace are without risks to the health and safety of any person.”

[WorkSafe NZ have been clear](#) that they will “... consider everyone’s duties and actions but will focus ... attention on those people who have **the most control or influence in the particular circumstances...**”, which means you, if you are the prime contractor on site!

What are some of those important duties and actions that we need to care for?

- [] Have a definite arrangement – know who will turn up, when and .
- [] Provide clear directions to the site – better still ferry the AVSP in from the forest gate.
- [] Install clear signage at the site – in particular establishing ‘safe’ and ‘no-go’ zones.
- [] Give special attention to the hazards, risks and controls – both yours and theirs.
- [] Discuss important site rules – focus on recent changes or unique aspects of the site.
- [] Instruct the AVSP on emergency procedures – what they should do in an emergency.
- [] Check that the AVSP has all the correct PPE and that it is worn – supply it if necessary.

Chainsaw Cuts and Kick-back!

Background – Noggin INC1335 28/08/18

A tree feller was clearing his escape route through some scrubby undergrowth. The chainsaw grabbed and kicked back cutting through his chaps (pictured below) and into his thigh. The tree feller underestimated the tension in the sapling he cut (Mingi-mingi – known for its springiness). Using the top-side of the chainsaw bar caused the chain to pinch in the cut, and the kick back reaction.



Heavy Undergrowth?

Heavy undergrowth is common in NZ’s plantation forests and it can hinder movement and visibility, both of which are safety critical in felling operations.

Therefore, properly clearing undergrowth is necessary as it improves access to the trees under felling and increases the visibility of the tree crowns and any overhead hazards.

Nonetheless, clearing undergrowth is also tiring work so targets need to reflect the additional time requirements to do the job safely.

Focus on Technique!

- Hold the chainsaw firmly with both hands.
- Always be aware of the location of the guide bar tip.
- Do not use the upper tip of the guide bar.
- Be especially careful when cutting light limbs or material that may catch the chain.
- Never cut upwards or into the compression (a cut that pinches together).
- Make sure the chain is tensioned and sharpened and that depth gauges are set to the manufacturer’s specified levels.



Felling in High Hazards Stands



Background – Noggin INC1507 08/11/18

Conditions – The image to the left shows the forest, an un-thinned stand having large trees interspersed with smaller (wispy – sub-dominant) or standing dead trees. The actual incident site was very steep with heavy undergrowth and undulating and broken ground. Following a period of rain, it was wet and slippery underfoot.

Qualifications and Planning – The two level 4 fellers (one newly certified under SafeTree) completed a morning meeting and felling plan before restarting from where they had left off the day before.

Description – The fifth tree of the morning run, a dominant tree, was leaning across the face into an area occupied by some other standing trees. The tree feller scarfed the tree to fall away from those standing trees, however, during the back-cut the tree broke its holding wood and fell sideways. As it fell, it clipped a smaller malformed, standing-dead tree breaking off and shattering a hook-shaped limb in the process. A smaller part of that limb (see image) flew back and struck the feller in the chest area, fracturing two ribs.



Contributing Factors – The scarf showed the top and bottom cuts not meeting and aimed too far to the right. Both factors made the tree susceptible to break its hinge wood and to fall sideways.



The wing-cuts, which are preferably placed at a “60 – 90° angle” to the trunk, were placed at 30 degrees to the trunk and were deeper than the recommended 10cm. These cuts would have also compromised the hinge wood – see **BPG Tree Felling p. 38**.

The feller completed some clearing of the undergrowth, however, clearing one or two more of the smaller native trees would have provided extra visibility of the aerial hazards. This would have provided a clearer view of the standing dead tree enabling the feller to conclude that he should first clear this tree.

Finally, the feller had not cleared any undergrowth along the escape routes i.e. at 45 degrees to the stump – see **ACOP p. 68**. In fact, the feller was struck while standing approximately 2 meters from the stump, at right angles to it. Please address these practice issues with your tree fellers.

Everyday Activities – Injuries!

Background – LTI

Noggin INC1515 13/11/2018

A worker was installing a fence post footing using an 800 mm long steel standard and a post hole rammer to hit it in. His foot was positioned next to the top of the standard. The rammer slipped off the standard and struck the worker on the foot above the steel toe cap.



This was a relatively minor incident that most likely didn't require time off work. However, the worker concerned visited A&E that evening and was given three days off.

Background – MTI INC1497 06/11/2018

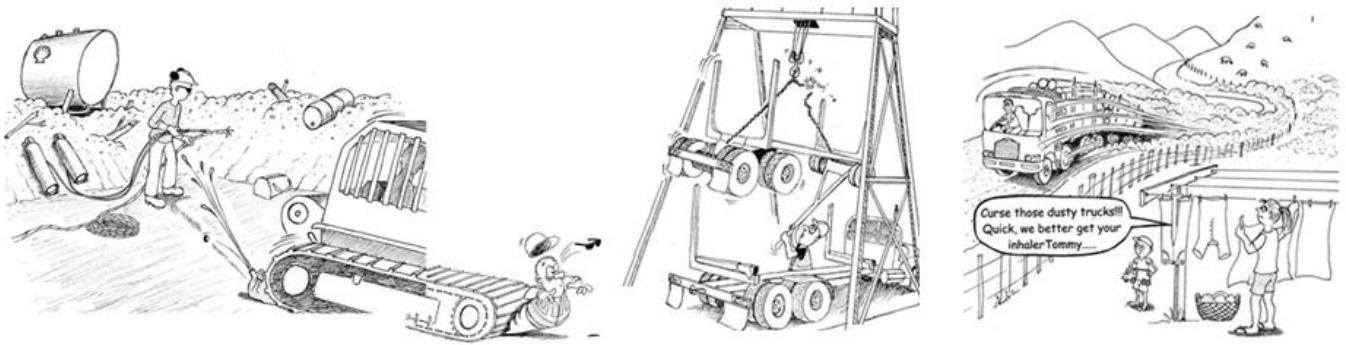
A trainee skidworker started the crew chainsaw out of his supervisor's immediate view. He didn't notice that the chain had loosened from when the saw was jammed earlier. Starting it, and holding it with one hand, he walked from the safe zone toward the work area on the skid. With the chainsaw bar pointing towards the back of his legs, the chain, which was spinning at the time, cut the back of his leg.

The **BPG Manual Processing and Logmaking p. 31** states that a chainsaw should be carried "in both hands so that it can be thrown clear if you slip..." Additionally, the chainbrake should be activated "when walking any distance."



“Best Efforts are no Substitute for Best Practice”

W. Edwards Deming (the father of quality management) also said: “We are being ruined by the best efforts of people who are doing the wrong thing.” Here Deming acknowledged how the good and industrious work of people could be undermined by following poor practice.



Safe Start Up – take care out there!

Coming back to work at the hottest time of the year is a challenge for every single forestry worker! This is a friendly reminder to **review our management controls** for dealing with the effects of the summer weather especially after a few weeks holiday.

1. Avoid sun exposure – erect a temporary shelter, use sun block and wear practical cover up as much as possible with loose-fitting clothes made of light breathable fabrics.
2. Become acclimatised – ease your way back into work by taking more frequent breaks and finishing a little earlier than normal (acclimatisation can take 7 to 14 days).
3. Stay hydrated – drink plenty of cool water (one litre every hour) in hot weather conditions. Drink every 15 to 20 minutes whether you feel thirsty or not to replace the fluid loss. Avoid consuming caffeine-based drinks, which can dehydrate you.
4. Know the symptoms of heat stress and fatigue – both affect the ability to make decisions; to plan; to communicate; to recall instructions and respond to changes in our surroundings.

Frustration and Stress

Many of us will be restarting work while others are taking their summer holidays. While some find that discouraging it can also bring along frustration and stress! **Here are few tips** that may just help us out – (1) plan to take a little longer e.g. in traffic, (2) identify the source of frustration and accept it, if out of your control. (3) share your winning (stress beating) ideas.



Four Point Harness Systems

With the significant increase in steep slope harvesting occurring around the world, manufacturers of forestry machines are looking to ensure operators are kept safe in the event of a machine rollover.

Indeed, substantial effort has gone into the design of Operator Protective Structures (OPS) and in-cab safety features and, for example, most purpose-built forestry machines now have a factory fitted four-point harness system.

These harness systems have substantially reduced the chance of severe injury to the operator in a machine roll-over.



Retrofitting our Older Machines – Requirements:

An analysis of recent injury incidents has shown that not all machines working in the cutover had four-point harness fitted. And, with more machines operating in steep slope harvesting situations the number of rollover incidents has increased, meaning a response is necessary.

Taking “all reasonably practicable steps” suggests that machines in most forestry operations require to have a four-point harness fitted, to keep operators safe. This will require some machines to undergo retrofitting.

Some key points and product information/advice follows:

- Most machines can have a four-point harness system retrofitted to the existing seat.
- Consult with the manufacturer (or an engineer) to ensure the OPS is not compromised.
- Approximate cost: Harness systems that fit onto the existing lap belt like the one pictured above cost between \$NZ 500-\$NZ 1,000.00 (retractable belts cost more).

PF Olsen Requirements: Where machines are working in the cutover and operating on slopes where our GSR’s have been exceeded – 18° rubber tyre machines or 22° tracked machines – the machine shall have a four-point harness system fitted for operator safety by the 1st of April 2019.

Helmets with Chin Straps

Helmets are an integral piece of safety equipment required by forestry workers in our country. They prevent untold minor and more serious injuries to wearers every year.

Over the last decade the simple plastic safety helmet has evolved significantly, and several manufacturers are now designing industry specific helmets to better meet worker's needs.

In several recent incidents, where a traditional safety helmet was worn, the worker sustained an impact injury. Conversely, in some incidents where a 'strapped helmet' was worn, it stayed put and protected the worker.



Task Appropriate Helmets – Recommendations:

As noted above, incidents where the workers wore a modern strapped helmet have highlighted the value of using a more appropriate (advanced) level of head protection.

Taking "all reasonably practicable steps" suggests that there are several tasks where a modern (technically more advanced), strapped helmet can be put into service.

Some key points and product information/advice follows:

- Cheap isn't always best – purchase a ready built (combo) product i.e. rather than trying to join two items (the helmet and a strap) together.
- The helmet pictured above (the Petzl Vertex Vent – A10VYA HV cost: \$NZ 130.00)
- A suitable helmet would meet the AS/NZ 1801:1997 (or comparable e.g. EN 397). Such helmets provide shock, impact and penetration protection from above and side on.

NOTE: The Petzl helmet was successfully trialled in PF Olsen forest operations.

PF Olsen Recommendations: AS/NZ 1801:1997 (or comparable) strapped helmets should be worn when working at heights above 3 meters or when performing high risk activities e.g. breaking-out.