

Western Forest Products Hazard Alert

Date of Incident: March 1, 2010

Site: Englewood Forest Operation

Incident : **Line Saw Near Miss - Cut-off disc failure**

Description:

Recently a worker was using a line saw to cut a piece of wire rope at the Englewood Forest Operation. The saw had excessive vibration while in use, which resulted in the cut-off disc eventually failing and coming apart at high speed.

After further investigation, the cut-off disc was found to be incorrect for the size of the line saw arbor. The arbor is a mounting step on the saw head that pilots the cut-off disc to ensure it is centered when installed. The disc is then attached using a bolt and washer plate.

This particular line saw's arbor required a disc with 20mm (~3/4") slot and a disc with a 25mm (1") slot was being used, which allowed it to rotate off-center and fail.

Line saw disc requirements vary depending on the manufacturer – standard or metric. A disc can rotate up to 5100 RPM and is extremely dangerous if it comes apart. In this case there were no injuries to workers.

Please take this opportunity to inspect line saws throughout Timberlands and ensure this hazard is addressed.



Line saw should have identified: size of disc, arbor size and RPM.

Learning and suggestions

1. Ensure all crew members using a line saw are aware of the different size arbors and the importance to have the correct cut-off disc.
2. Check line saws within the Operation to determine if there are saws with different size arbors. Ensure they are identified appropriately.
3. Crew members must be aware of the need to always stop and check the saw if there is excessive vibration.

For more information contact:

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