

Final Incident Investigation Report

Employee Name	Occupation: Labourer
Employment Start Date: September 18, 2006	Time on Present Job: 1 day
Date & Time of Incident: November 15, 2006 8:50pm	Date Reported: same

Nature of Incident: Amputation of lower right leg below the knee

Description of Incident:

- The worker was assigned to clean up the floor sweep area and the snow outside the floor sweep along with another worker who had previously done this job a week earlier.
- The worker was inside the floor sweep area while it was in operation. It is clear the worker had his back turned to the approaching floor sweep as it made its way back along its return.
- It is clear that right leg was caught between the floor sweep and the shaft that joins the sprockets together at the head end of the return.
- As the floor sweep bar rounded the head end sprocket it sheared the workers lower right leg.
- The severed leg was swept into the main waste conveyor and carried to the hog bin via the conveyor system.
- The worker then removed himself from the floor sweep area and began screaming for someone to help him.
- A fellow co-worker heard these cries for help and upon finding the injured worker sought first aid treatment immediately.
- The first aid attendant on duty arrived on the scene where he administered first aid treatment, had the amputated leg (and bone fragments) retrieved, and had the ambulance notified.
- The ambulance delivered the worker to the Stuart Lake Hospital for medical attention. The level 1 first aid attendant (who was assisting the level 3 first aid attendant) accompanied the ambulance to the hospital. The level 3 first aid attendant remained on site as other workers were still present.

Basic Cause and Contributory Causes:

Worker did not have the floor sweep power disconnected and locked out while working in the area.

Investigation Team:

Planer & Quality Supervisor.
Sawmill Superintendent.
OHS Joint Committee.
Maintenance Superintendent.
WorksafeBC Occupational Safety Officer.

Recommended Corrective Measures:

1. Have a discussion with ALL employees of the severity of the injury and stress the importance of following proper lock-out instruction and procedures.
2. Install a "Lock out is required beyond this point" sign at the drive end of the floor sweep.
3. Have Critical Incident Response counselors from the WCB meet with those involved in treating the injured worker.
4. Review safety training requirements and documentation with front line supervisors. This includes follow up inspections while work is being done.
5. Send supervisory staff to the WCB sponsored Supervisory training session.

Completion Date:

1. DONE 16/11/06
2. DONE 17/11/06
3. DONE 17/11/06
4. DONE 18/11/06
5. JAN 2007