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SAFETY ALERT

10-S-3

WOODYARD LOADER DOOR SLAMS ON OPERATOR'S FINGER

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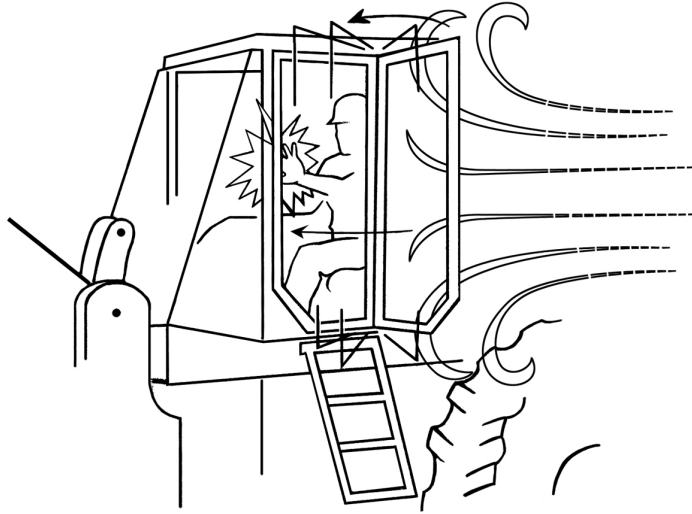
www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/10-s-3.html

BACKGROUND: An Appalachian mill's woodyard employee was operating a rubber-tired unloading machine on a hot, sunny fall day.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The employee was in his mid-40s, and he had approximately 15 years of equipment operating experience. The individual was wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. He was considered fully trained for the job, including past safety awareness training. His previous accident history was unknown.

UNSAFE ACT & CONDITION:

The air conditioner was not working inside his enclosed-cab rubber-tired loader. Consequently, he left the loader door open to stay cool while unloading log trucks on the site. A sudden gust of wind blew the cab door closed. The operator reached out with his hand, an act he later described as a reflexive reaction, to stop the door from slamming shut.



ACCIDENT: The door slammed on the operator's hand, injuring the left middle finger.

INJURIES: His fingertip was cut and pinched. It was later diagnosed as no fracture, and it did not require stitches. The operator was treated, returned to work the same day, and subsequently made a full recovery.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION: Maintaining the air conditioning in logging and woodyard equipment can improve employees' productivity, and keeping ROPS/FOPS equipment doors shut during operation adds a required measure of safety. If equipment doors must be kept open, a fastener to prevent unexpected closure is recommended. Wearing gloves can improve hand protection.

Reviewed by:

Rick Meyer

Appalachian/Southwide Region Manager