



SAWMILL EMPLOYEE LACERATES FINGER DURING SAW TIP REPLACEMENT

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BACKGROUND

A sawmill employee was attempting to replace worn saw tips on a Scragg mill blade.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The employee was considered fully trained for the maintenance procedure. This is a common practice that typically occurs twice a month, depending on the volume of logs being cut.

UNSAFE ACTS AND CONDITIONS

The saw operator failed to use a block to prevent the sawblade from moving or rotating during the maintenance procedure.

ACCIDENT

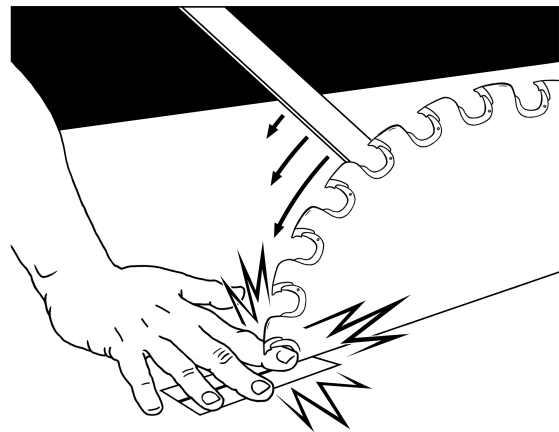
The saw operator noticed that both sawblades had worn and become dull. The operator powered down the saw and then went to the saw's electrical breaker box to position the shutdown handle in the "off" position. The saw was in a zero-energy state when the replacement procedure began. The operator positioned himself on the in-feed side of the saw to remove the saw tips. As he was using the replacement tool to loosen the saw tip, the saw blade rotated forward, catching the operator's right index finger between the saw blade and the blade guide.

INJURY

The rotating blade inflicted a laceration on the operator's right index finger. The operator immediately stood up and yelled for help. Nearby employees assisted by wrapping the operator's injured hand in a cloth and transporting him to a local hospital. The operator was diagnosed with a tendon laceration. Surgery to repair the lacerated tendon was performed two days later.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION

- Always use a block or similar device to ensure a sharp object stays in a zero-energy state during maintenance procedures or repairs
- Avoid becoming complacent while conducting routine tasks



This Safety Alert analyzes an injury in accordance with the chain of events represented by the five dominoes above. Pioneer industry safety experts H.W. Heinrich and Alfred Lateiner developed this accident analysis system to provide a graphic sense of how injuries can be avoided. Their methodology has been accepted by safety professionals worldwide.

Safety Meeting Report

Topic(s) Discussed:

Comments / Recommendations:

Date:

Company:

Names of Employees Attending:

Meeting Conducted by:

Please follow equipment manufacturers' recommendations for safe operation and maintenance procedures.

signature