

No job is more important.



Safety Alert

N°3 2002

Safety Attachments on Pneumatic Secateurs

**NEW****OLD**

Details

In a recent incident, an employee at an apple orchard had the end of his ring finger amputated by pneumatically operated secateurs (pictured above right).

The worker was descending a ladder when his foot slipped. In an attempt to stop his fall, the worker grabbed the top rung of the ladder. He was still holding a pair of secateurs. During this action, the unguarded trigger of the secateurs was activated and the amputation occurred.

Contributing Factors

An investigation into this accident has revealed that:

- the secateurs were manufactured in 1978
- the secateurs had no safety features; no active trigger guard or hand-operated safety catch.

Recommendations

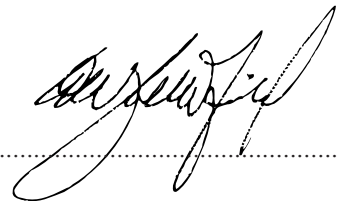
- That employer and employees must ensure plant is safe to use and contemporary safety standards are adopted as required.
- That a hazard identification and risk assessment is carried out on all plant and processes involving plant in the workplace as per legal obligations.
- That employees and contractors are trained in the safe use of plant, and appropriately supervised.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Schofield', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Don Schofield
Chief Inspector
Workplace Standards Tasmania
8 October 2002