

Number 7 2003

## Maintaining Mechanical Forest Harvesters



### Details

An operator was routinely greasing equipment between the jaws of a hydraulic harvesting head. The machine was powered up and the jaws of the harvesting head unexpectedly closed.

The operator was trapped in the jaws of the machine. He suffered multiple fractures, head injuries, a punctured lung and severe bruising. The injuries might have proved fatal except for the prompt action by a workmate. This highlights the importance of having fellow employees on site to observe and to assist in emergencies.

*see over...*

## Contributing Factors

An investigation into this accident revealed that:

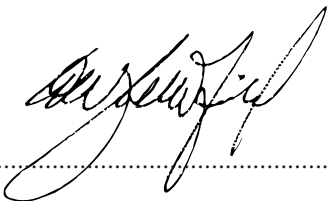
- It was common practice to carry out routine maintenance while the engine was running.
- The warnings contained in the machine operator's manual were not adhered to.

## Recommendations

- That machinery is completely isolated or shutdown before carrying out routine maintenance, including greasing and changing chainsaw bars and chains.
- That operators receive information and are trained in operating machinery as recommended in the operator's manual.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:  
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