



# Safetree Alert: Preventing injuries while repairing machinery

**Post this alert on your workplace noticeboards. Discuss it at safety or tailgate meetings.**

**Incident:** It was reported by media on Monday 31 January 2022 that a man had died while repairing a machine in a forest in North Canterbury. This incident is still being investigated and our thoughts are with the man's whanau, friends and workmates. We don't yet have details about what caused the incident. But in the meantime, below is some information from Safetree's tailgate cards, which you can use to review your own repair and maintenance practices:

## Do maintenance work in a safe area

- Choose flat and stable ground away from where forestry work is going on.
- Make sure all maintenance people visiting the site are inducted and have the right PPE.
- Plan to manage any risks the maintenance work creates, like welding, working at height.

## Only skilled and/or qualified people can do maintenance work

- Only do maintenance work if you have the right training.
- Only work with the correct tools.
- Check the manufacturer's manual so all maintenance is done to their specifications.

## Use 'safe systems of work' during maintenance

- Use the correct shut down/lock-out/de-energise procedures and the correct blocking or supports for the machines.
- Ensure there's a clear plan including communication/instructions when the maintenance requires two or more individuals.
- Make sure risk controls are in place and are working well.

## **More information**

See the tailgate card: [https://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Machine-maintenance\\_Landscape-A4-v11-WEB\\_32.pdf](https://safetree.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Machine-maintenance_Landscape-A4-v11-WEB_32.pdf)