

SAFETY ALERT

Crew Mechanic Fatally Injured undertaking Hydraulic Hose Repair

Jan 2022

Circumstances

The wheeled loader main hydraulic pressure hose failed requiring replacement.

To allow access to the main hose valve, residual fluid pressure to the loader boom's lift and tilt features was released. The boom was then raised with assistance of a second machine allowing the grapple to flop to a natural position, then lowered and supported by the loader's grapple tine tips. After the mechanic started work under the boom, it slumped unexpectedly and fatally pinned the mechanic.



Risk Management

- *Review all raised object risks in your business. Use a tailgate meeting or H&S meeting to review these hazards and your business's controls. Involve your employees. This means any plant or equipment that may need to be raised or supported to allow someone to work under, inside or beside it.*
- *Ensure all persons exposed to such risks know the steps to eliminate the risks (ie: your Hazard controls and/or R&M processes). These steps will vary from machine to machine, the type of repair or maintenance task and the method recommended by plant supplier, manufacturer or risk assessments.*
- *Change Management – plant, equipment and practices evolve over time and sometimes a repair needs a slightly different approach. It's good practice to revisit existing safety plans and controls when unusual work conditions are experienced.*
- *Ensure you are familiar with secondary support devices. There may be more than one option. Consider you choices carefully.*

Disclaimer: This accident is still under investigation. The information provided has been done in good faith to provide other forestry businesses with an opportunity to consider the risks associated with raised object and repair and maintenance risks that are encountered on a regular basis. The information provided is not intended to attribute blame or failure to any party associated with the accident.

Alert released by Button Logging & Rayonier Matariki Forests – 18 Feb 2022