

Safety Alert: Chainsaw Kickback

Date: 17/01/2024	Focus Group: All Forestry Contractors
Topic: Chainsaw kickback	Issued by: Travis Terry

Incident: On the 17th of January, a silviculture worker sustained a LTI after a chainsaw 'kickback' event resulted in the bar and chain coming into contact with the side of his head.

Background:

- The crew was undertaking thinning work on the third day back after the Christmas break.
- The worker was attempting to clear vegetation around the tree identified for felling.
- The tip of the bar has contacted a piece of gorse causing the saw to kickback without activating the safety chain brake.
- The saw has travelled back where it has, initially, struck the visor before dislodging both it and the helmet.
- It has continued on this path and come into contact with the side of his head around the temple area inflicting a laceration to the head.

Investigation Findings / Risk Awareness:

While there were recommendations relating to changes in the technique applied in this particular situation to prevent this reoccurring. The investigation identified that, when the chainsaw was held in a particular position along the wrap around handle, the safety chain brake may not activate as expected in the event of kickback.

Safety Behaviour:

- When using a chainsaw be prepared for the possibility of kickback.
- The contractor has implemented a coloured band on the roll over handle (see photo) to serve as a visual reminder to operators of the position of their hand and the heightened risk of the chain brake not activating if required while their hand is in this position.

Site Manager use

- 1. This safety alert has been reviewed with all relevant employees and or operators **Y/N**
- 2. Sign-off by all those people present completed **Y/N**

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /



