



Zero Harm Hazard Alert

Injuries that occur during machine maintenance on coupes

The most prevalent cause of injuries to the staff of timber harvesting contractors is machine maintenance. The purpose of this alert is to highlight some points about this issue:

- Lacerations to the hands while removing or sharpening saw chains dominate these injuries.
- Crush and impact injuries also occur. Most often from a spanner slipping off when it is under extreme pressure.
- The average lost time for a serious laceration is a week.
- Injuries requiring medical treatment are also reportable to WorkSafe

Potential corrective actions:

While it is acknowledged that gloves will not offer protection for crush injuries, they are very effective protection whilst sharpening a chain. All contractors have gloves on coupes. It is important that they are worn.

Repetitive tightening of bolts should be avoided, it has been shown to cause wear to the bolt or nut and increase the likelihood of a tool slipping. A regular maintenance program is important for all machines. Issues that require repetitive attention are indicative of another underlying problem and should be fixed in order to eliminate it.

