

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

BCFSC # 2011-09-15 Fatality

On Thursday September 15, 2011 a processor operator was fatally injured in the Central Interior of BC. The operator sustained a crushing injury while attempting to clear a jam from the head of the processor. The investigation into the incident is still at an early stage and no determination has yet been made as to the cause of the incident.

We recommend that all processor operators, equipment operators and supervisors take the time to review the following general guidelines relating to equipment operation with co-workers and crews:

- When working on equipment it is best practice to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for safely securing equipment prior to performing maintenance or clearing debris. Lockout procedures should be specific to the machine being operated and should prevent the inadvertent movement of a machine caused by the following energy sources:
 - Electrical (including lasers)
 - Mechanical
 - Hydraulic
 - Pneumatic
 - Gravity
- When working on a piece of machinery/ equipment ensure that the proper PPE is worn and that the appropriate tools are available.
- Wherever possible, when conducting maintenance, stop the machine in an area that is flat, open and out of the way from other traffic or hazards.
- Get a second opinion or ask for assistance when a situation arises that is out of the normal routine.
- Ensure that when locking out a machine or piece of equipment that it is in a zero energy state prior to working on it.

As more detail is made available, the council will provide additional resources and information.

Further information on Risk based assessments may be found at <http://www.bcforestsafe.org/RADAR>



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Unsafe is Unacceptable



The picture shown above represents one of the various processor heads used in the forest industry and was not connected with the specific incident described above.



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