

HAZARD ALERT

RISK MANAGEMENT SECTION



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Date: 28/01/2009

Alert No: 01

Source:

Internal

External

Author: FMS

Identified Hazard: Struck by falling object whilst walking in front of machinery

Risk Rating:

Low

Moderate

High

Significant

Nature of Incident:

Injury

Property Damage

Near-hit

Other:

Description of Incident:

Officer injured whilst directing Front End Loader (FEL) operations putting in a fire break at night around a dead fire edge. The officer was walking and directing operations in front of the FEL at night along a dead fire edge and was struck by a small sapling pushed by the FEL.

Incident Time and Date:

12th Jan 09 at 0300

Equipment Involved:

FEL

Background Information:

Dead fire edge, limited FEL driver visibility, officer too close to the FEL

Recommendations:

The investigation highlighted several key areas that need to be considered when undertaking this work at night or during poor visibility.

- Investigate alternative ways of delineating the fireline to be constructed at night such as using reflective tape to mark the proposed fireline prior to machine operation.
- Ensure all on ground staff wear PPE and hivis clothing.
- Dependant on forest type and prevailing conditions there may be a need to use two personnel on foot to guide the FEL in putting in the break.
- Ensure the officer on foot and the FEL operator have a communications plan and are in constant visual and radio communication.
- Walking a sufficient distance away from the machine (minimum 2 ½ tree lengths).
- Both machinery operator and onground operations staff must be experienced in undertaking this work.
- Provide the necessary skills into a training module for both fire line officers and machinery operators.
- FMS to investigate completion of a Job Safety Analysis or Guideline.

Produced by Risk Management Section-Kensington.