

SAFETY ALERT



Title: Grading Batters for Firebreaks

Number: 4

Date Issued: 16 November 2023

Background:

Fortunately, a PLC Grader Operator did not sustain any injuries when a stick shattered his left-hand side window. The Operator was clearing batters and grading forestry roads for firebreaks. The Operator was pulling the brush and debris down from the batters, which were overgrown. The Operator was using the grader blade to pull the bushes and debris from the batters. A stick deflected off the blade and onto the left-hand side window. The stick hit the window, causing it to shatter. The driver didn't see the stick as his view was obstructed by leaves and other small branches. When the operator heard the glass shatter, he turned the machine off and exited the cab.

Key Points:

Check Terrain - Grader should be operated on flat or slightly sloping ground only. Advise your Supervisor if the vegetation on batters is large and dense.

Machine Type - Graders should not be used to clear off shoots for water drainage, where vegetation and trees are present.

Stay aware -When you are working in areas where there may be debris, and/or trees present, use equipment for correct purpose.



“Work Safely, Home Safe”