

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



Importance of machine guarding

Number: 53

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Background

On Friday 10th December 2021, an FPC contractor experienced an incident where a small log, approx. 150mm diameter, has ridden up over the front tyre of a skidder and penetrated the Marguard side windscreen.

The log appears to have become wedged against a solid light fitting, and with nowhere to go, pushed through the Marguard.

Fortunately, the operator was not injured.



This incident highlights how dangerous the industry can be.

Key Points

- The log was still attached to its root ball which the machine tyre originally struck providing leverage for it to ride up on the tyre.
- The operator was conducting forwarding and reversing motions to align his machine, and eyesight was more focused on reversing to position the grab.
- The operator was a trainee under supervision with only 4 weeks experience in forestry.
- Contractors should refer to the “Forest Equipment Guarding Best Practice Guidelines 2020” for appropriate guarding standards for machines and associated activities, refer link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uRv7f3j_UOxm3vt7RqMtM_oegvwnQSO/view

- In the lead up to Christmas 2021, we enter a high-risk period and a focus on work activities for all employees should be at the forefront.