

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

To resolve an edger feed stop, a sawmill edger operator called for supervisor assistance. His supervisor informed him via radio that he would have to wait a few minutes. The operator decided to manually clean the blocked photocell himself.

The operator did not lockout any of equipment but did turn the operating controls off. This did not shut off the hydraulics or control power to the photocell he was clearing.

The operator stepped over the handrail into the lockout zone placing one foot on a guard cover and the other foot on the shaft of a live cylinder. As soon as he cleared the photocell, the cylinder activated and his foot was pinched between the cylinder housing and edger framework.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Always lockout prior to accessing any equipment or putting yourself in the bite.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Always follow written company lockout procedures prior to accessing any equipment.
2. Supervisors should consider doing more frequent lockout verifications and assessments on workers to ensure they are complying with company lockout procedures.

