

**THIS UPDATE REPLACES SAFETY ALERT #12 (13/10/21)**

Incident Ref: INC-00277

Date Issued: 22/10/2021

Safety Alert #: 012A

Subject: **Stem Entered Harvester Cabin**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Location: Kaingaroa Forest

Time: 8.00am

Plant Type: Mechanical harvester

Site/BU: Harvesting

**Description of Incident**

A fixed falling machine was felling a double leader tree with a rotten section. While the operator was placing the tree, it snapped into three pieces at the rotten crutch.

The stem was above the cab of the machine when it snapped, the base of the stem remained fixed in the felling head.

One leader has come down landing close the machine. The second, larger leader, has fallen vertically down into the machine entering the cabin area via the emergency escape hatch, piercing the operators seat. The leader was approximately 740 kg with a sharp tip.

The operator escaped serious injury or death because he had noticed the double leaders had snapped off the main stem of the log. The snapping has prompted the operator to move forward and look up. It is believed the second leader has entered the cab at this point. When the leader entered the cabin, it scratched the operator's back causing relatively minor abrasions.

**Cause of Incident**

An investigation into the cause of the incident is ongoing and we are liaising with the machine's manufacturer. The ISO 8083:2006 standard, specific to forestry machines, requires the FOPS guarding to withstand a 227kg object falling from a height of 5.2 metres. The machine appears to have met this standard. However, in this incident a 740kg object fell from a height of 10 metres exerting forces which exceed the current standard.

**Preventative Measures**

- The manufacturer has made a strengthened emergency hatch. All Timberpro machines (with escape hatch) operating within the KT estate were stood down until strengthened emergency hatches were fitted.
- Timberlands' harvest managers, together with contractor principals, are reviewing roof escape hatches in other harvesting operational machines.
- A review of the ISO 8083:2006 standard may be required in due course.

This Safety Alert must be posted on all workplace notice boards and used by Supervisors as a subject for discussion at Toolbox Meetings.

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE T ALL WORKPLACES*****Nga hoa i te Haumaruru (Partners in Safety)***