

WORKING ON ENERGIZED EQUIPMENT

Recent statistics provided by WorkSafeBC state that from 2019 to 2021:

- In manufacturing 787 serious injuries were related to caught in or struck by in equipment
- 121 of these injuries were in sawmills and represent 15% of the 787 serious injuries
- 44% of 121 serious incidents involved cleaning, troubleshooting or maintenance activities on live equipment

Sometimes it's not practicable to shut down and lockout machinery or equipment for maintenance tasks or equipment troubleshooting. Examples of this may include unjamming the equipment, jumping a chain back onto a sprocket, aligning belts or trouble shooting mechanical or electrical issues.

When a worker works on energized equipment, they must follow the 3 steps that are outline in Occupational Health & Safety Regulation 10.12:

10.12 Work on Energized Equipment

If it is not practicable to shut down machinery or equipment for maintenance, only the parts vital to the process may remain energized and the work must be performed by workers who

- are qualified to do the work,*
- have been authorized by the employer to do the work, and*
- have been provided with and follow written safe work procedures.*

Before working on energized equipment ask yourself these 3 questions:

- 1) Have I been qualified to perform this work?
- 2) Have I been authorized to perform this work?
- 3) Do I have a specific safe work procedure based on a risk assessment for this specialized work?



BC Forest Safety

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1. Workers are qualified to work on energized equipment

- For a worker to be qualified to work on energized equipment they must be provided education, training and be assessed for competency on the specific safe work procedures developed by the company
- The competency assessment to qualify a worker takes place at the end of their training and periodically (at least annually) by a qualified supervisor knowledgeable in the specific procedure

2. Workers are authorized by the employer to perform the work

- Authorization to perform this specialized work is provided to only a select group of workers that have passed the competency process
- No other workers have authorization perform or to be in the bite during these procedures
- Supervisors will periodically monitor workers performing this type of work to confirm ongoing competency
- If the task is high risk or critical risk supervisors will perform more frequent observations for competency confirmation

3. Workers have been provided with and follow written safe work procedures

- A general safe work procedure for working on live equipment is not appropriate for this type of work. Each task and piece of equipment will have its own safe work procedure
- The task specific safe work procedures are developed from information gathered from a Working on Energized Equipment risk assessment
- Knowledgeable management staff, workers and JOHSC members are the preferred group of qualified persons to perform the risk assessment and develop the safe work procedures
- The written safe work procedures will also be posted at the equipment where the work is to be performed

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