

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Processor Strikes Pick-up Truck

A mechanic had finished working on a processor, returned to their truck and turned it around. They radioed to confirm it was safe to pass an adjacent operating processor. At that moment, the processor operator paused briefly, which led the mechanic to believe it was safe to proceed.

The operator did not hear the radio call and resumed processing logs after the brief pause. Before the mechanic had fully cleared the machine, a tree-length log was pulled through the processor head and struck the rear driver-side door of the truck, shattering the window.

Once the mechanic was clear of the processor, the operator noticed the damage and stopped work immediately to confirm the mechanic was not injured. There were no injuries. Weather conditions were clear and sunny.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Contractors must review their Safe Work Procedure (SWP) with all operators, ensuring radio volumes are set to a level they can hear it and ensure clear verbal or visual confirmation is established. Once confirmation is received and acknowledged, equipment operators should raise the machine head and bring the equipment to a complete stop before anyone passes.
- Skidder operators should use a separate radio channel to reduce interference with processor operators when working in different areas. The decking loader should monitor both channels.
- Share the incident and communicate with other harvesting contractors to improve awareness and prevent further incidents



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Before anyone approaches machinery, workers and equipment operators must establish clear and reliable communication and confirm safe passage.