



## RISK ZONE ENCROACHMENT

### Background

A harvesting processor felled and processed a tree approximately 30 metres from where a person was standing. The stated risk zone on the machine was 90 metres. Felling and processing a tree with someone standing in the risk zone is an unsafe practice and in clear contravention of harvesting site safety rules.

### What Happened

- The person was waiting at roadside to speak with the processor operator
- The processor had been approaching the forest road along a rack when it stopped approximately 30 metres from the person, felled and processed a tree
- The person was satisfied that the machine operator was aware of their presence within the risk zone when he felled and processed the tree

### Findings

- Nobody was injured as a result of this incident, however the person was standing well within the risk zone and was exposed to the major hazard of chain shot (*fragment flying from the broken chain*) in the event of the chain breaking
- The person asked the harvester operator about risk zones and the safe distances people needed to be away from timber harvesters while tree felling and processing were taking place
- The harvester operator knew the correct risk zone distances and realised at this stage that he had felled and processed the tree with someone standing in the risk zone
- The activity pack for the site indicated that the road was often used by forest visitors, even though it was not part of any designated trail, so operators needed to be mindful of encroachment into risk zones

### Corrective Action

- Site operators (including chainsaw operators) need to be aware of risk zones
- Site operators need to be mindful of encroachment into risk zones and must stop working when risk zones are encroached upon

### Learning Points

- Forestry Work Managers must ensure general site safety rules are available on site
- Contractors must ensure site staff are familiar with site safety rules (both general and site specific)
- Contractors must assess the risk of encroachment into risk zones and employ suitable controls to minimise encroachment or cease machine operation when the risk zone is breached
- Operations managers need to monitor adherence to site rules

Please Don't Walk By



**Ensure this Safety Alert is brought to the attention of all employees and sub-contractors.**