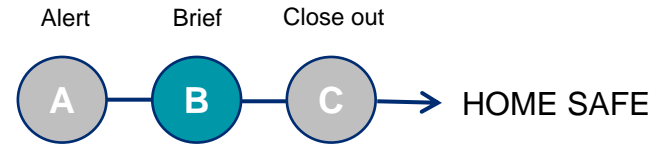


# SHE BRIEF

## Chainsaw Injury



### Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

#### What happened?

On the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023, one of our colleagues sustained a cut to their arm from a chainsaw whilst responding to Storm Gerrit. The incident occurred whilst cutting a wind-blown tree which was lying flat on the ground. After cutting, the tree sprung back up knocking the chainsaw out of their hand, as it came back down towards the ground it struck their arm causing a laceration.

#### What have we done?

Following the investigation we can report the following findings;

- The tree was cut at the wrong end where there was the potential for stored energy release. With a wind-blown tree it should be cut following an assessment of the tree paying particular attention to where there is the most compression and tension.
- The response to the incident (emergency response plan) and first aid given on site was exemplary. It was escalated and reported as per procedure.
- It was identified during the investigation that inadequate lighting was a contributing factor to the incident occurring. Improved lighting conditions would have led to a better assessment of the tension on the wind-blown tree. We are currently looking into lighting options with two lighting systems on trial.

#### Next Steps;

- We will continue the trial on the new lighting system and report the feedback in the close out brief.

Husqvarna WL 8i Lighting System on Trial



Peli Remote Area Light on Trial

