## SHE ALERT Line of Fire – Trapped Thumb





Date of incident which is raised in days	01/10/2024		Directorate	Operations SEPD	
Region	Tree Cutting	Location	Lymington	Classification	PTBW
What happened ?					

On October 1st, 2024, a Subcontracting utility arborist team were attempting to un-hitch a loaded General Plant trailer with a tracked woodchipper from a Land Rover tipper on site. Due to limited space between the ground and the hitch height, the auto-lock jockey wheel wouldn't lock properly, so they decided to reverse the woodchipper slightly to raise the tow hitch by moving the load weight to the rear of the trailer. During this process, the tow hitch on the trailer shot upwards, pinching the IP's thumb. They managed to free their thumb and received first aid on site. Later, they visited minor injuries, where the wound was cleaned, steri-strips were applied, and an x-ray confirmed no breaks. PPE was being worn at the time.

Whilst we are investigating this incident it's important to remember;

- Be aware of any stored energy.
- Never put yourself in the line of fire.
- Plan scan and adapt. If it can't be done safely, reassess and adapt.









If it's not safe, we don't do it

