



## *Safety Advice 40-2013 (Oct) (NZ)*

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The following First Alert courtesy of Transpower and Electronet concerns a chainsawing incident in the course of vegetation control work.

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TRANSPOWER



# FIRST ALERT

Date: 30 October 2013

## Cut to Elbow by Chainsaw

### EVENT

**Location:** IGH-KIK-A Upper Buller Gorge  
Steep native bush 2nd growth  
bush clad hillside with dense  
undergrowth

**Conditions:** Fine day following  
approximately one week  
consistent heavy rain



A Vegetation Controller was working horizontally along an area of bank when a section of ground gave way beneath his foot. As he slipped downward and forward his right hand caught the trigger mechanism of his chainsaw and the blade flicked over causing a cut to his left arm, just above the elbow. The cut required two stitches.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Hospital attention. Two stitches to arm. Able to return to full duties following morning.
- Meeting held with field staff to discuss incident. Footwear sighted as contributing factor. Options to be investigated which incorporate forestry components and meet with service specification requirements. Discussed fatigue management assessment and risk slider undertaken prior to work. Hydration and fatigue not considered to be contributing factors.
- Chainsaw inspected. In full working order. Past inspections reviewed. No previous issues noted.
- D&A Testing of work crew. No issues.



For more information  
please contact:

Name Robyn Scott  
Designation Health & Safety Co-Ord  
Ph: Mob: 03 768 2724  
[rscott@electronet.co.nz](mailto:rscott@electronet.co.nz)