



Safety Advice 06-2014 (NZ) (Jan)

Leg Laceration by Chainsaw

The following Safety Alert courtesy of Electrix concerns a chainsaw cut to leg injury. Any further information post the ICAM investigation will be forwarded as a supplementary advice. The full advice follows below.

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safety alert

E13080 – Leg laceration by chainsaw



Condition of chaps after incident



Laceration to leg



Example of how far chaps come around leg

What Happened

On Wednesday 8 January 2014 an Electrix employee was topping a Lombardi tree in preparation for it to be felled safely away from the lines. As the employee prepared to move to a better position to trim the other side of the tree, he had to remove a branch to enable him to do so safely. The branch was at knee height and as he completed the cut he released the chainsaw trigger. The chain was winding down and caught a smaller branch causing the chainsaw to kickback catching the employee's chaps on the side and moved to the rear of the chaps causing it to rip his overalls and make a laceration to his left leg. Medical treatment was needed with the laceration requiring 7 stitches.

Root cause

Under investigation

Immediate Actions

- Work stopped on site immediately.
- Team members applied first aid and transported the employee to the nearest medical centre for treatment.
- Team had a post-incident debrief with management before returning to the site in the afternoon to clear up equipment on site.
- Alternative PPE for leg protection is under review.
- ICAM investigation and report underway.

Prepared by Kerry Rodda, QSE Coordinator, Central (06) 353 3555

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Safety Alerts are advisory only. They contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported and the key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event