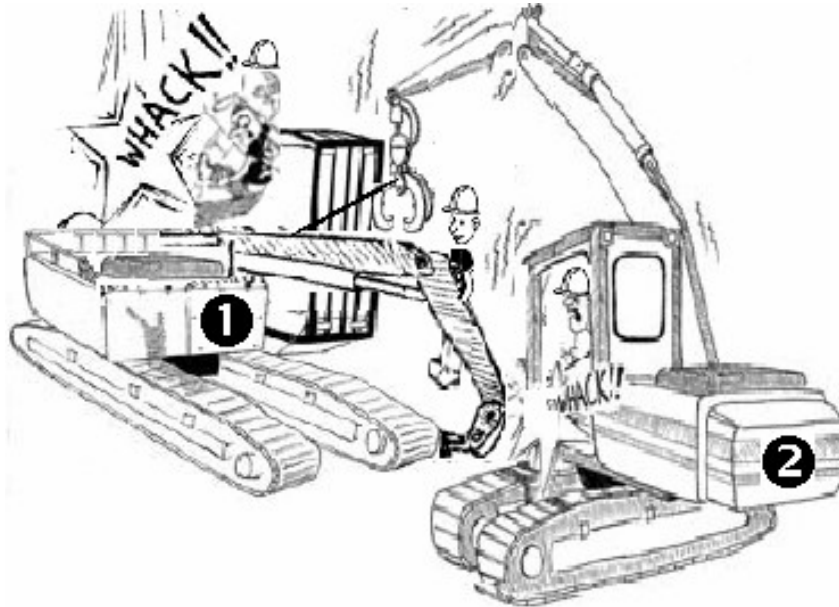


In-Forest Maintenance – Serious Harm!



FIPS # 1317 – Lost Time Injury (40+ days).

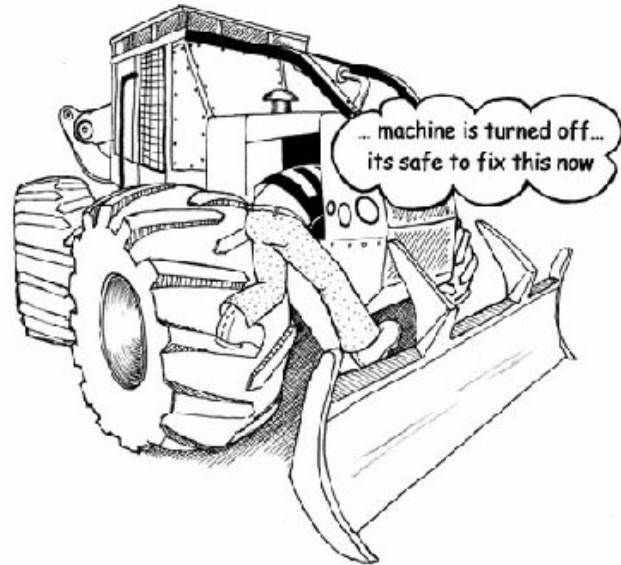
Three employees of a Contractor were undertaking maintenance on the ram of an excavator (loader 1). Two of the men were trying to knock the pin; one was standing on the ground the other was standing on loader 1 between the cab and the boom on the ram.

Another loader (loader 2), positioned adjacent, was being used to hold up the ram (of loader 1) by means of a chain. The third man, believing that loader 2 was isolated (hydraulic deactivation), entered loader 2 and as he did became caught up in the controls. There was a sudden violent movement of loader 2's boom and consequently the chain and the ram. This forced the ram off the pin then upwards.

The rapid upwards-movement sandwiched the leg of the employee between the boom and the ram. His leg was later amputated.

Hazards associated with maintenance of forest machinery:

- Working at heights or on slippery surfaces.
- Hydraulic hoses under pressure.
- Exposure to heat and cold.
- Physically demanding work.
- Working under (unsupported) equipment.
- Moving machinery and moving parts.
- Hot mufflers and engines.
- Sprains and strains while using tools.
- Working in confined or cramped spaces.
- Working alone or at night.



Working Safely During Machine Maintenance

- During maintenance of machinery, equipment should be switched off and the key removed – let people know by using a “do not use” sign.
- Lock levers and switches to avoid accidental start-up during maintenance.
- Ensure all guards and safety screens are in place and in good order.
- Always replace guards and close access doors especially when machinery is unattended.
- Use jacks, blocks or other stable supports if working under raised machinery, including blades and accessories. Block hydraulically operated attachments so they cannot move.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment such as close fitting high-visibility cotton overalls. Do not wear polar fleece garments when welding, acetylene gas cutting or when subject to direct heat.
- Anyone maintaining machinery should read and understand the relevant parts of the operator’s handbook or manual.

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