

Incident Investigation

Breaker Out struck by an unprocessed stem.

There has been a serious incident where a Breaker Out has been struck by an unprocessed stem which unexpectedly discharged from a surge pile on the landing.

Key learnings

- The Breaker Out control plan and daily breaking out plan needs to reflect the risks associated with the surge pile.
- The Head Breaker Out is to establish that the Breaker Outers are in a safe position as per the ACOP and the best practice guidelines.
- Logs on the surge pile should be entirely on the landing and height restricted to minimise logs falling/slipping.
- Breaker outs to wear helmets with chin straps.
- Communication protocols between machine operators clearing the chute or working clearing a surge pile must be agreed upon before work commences.

This Petzel helmet has saved the Breaker Out from receiving serious head injuries as the strap was done up and it stayed on while he fell.

