

12 August 2020

SAFETY ALERT

Skid-worker narrowly avoids serious injury after falling from the deck of a hauler



What happened?

A skid worker in a hauler operation was tasked to help remove a damaged stabilising ram from a hauler. The worker climbed up onto the hauler to assist with the removal of the ram, he was wearing spiked boots at the time.

At the suggestion of a service mechanic, he carried the 40 kg hydraulic cylinder across the top of the engine bay and threw it over the side of the hauler. As he did so, part of the cylinder caught his belt, dragging him off the hauler and falling 2.8 meters. He fortunately only suffered bruising to his pelvis.

How could this incident have been prevented?

Maintenance of harvesting plant and equipment can be hazardous and requires a planned approach. A maintenance plan with a risk assessment should have been undertaken by the crew and mechanic before the work commenced.

The skid worker should not have mounted the hauler wearing spiked boots, nor should he have walked across the engine bay to throw the cylinder from the hauler as there was no fall restraint system in place. A nearby log loader could have been used to sling the cylinder of the hauler to the ground.

Before undertaking maintenance of harvesting plant & equipment stop:

- Identify the hazards & risks
- Develop a safe maintenance plan that everyone understands and agrees with
- Ensure everyone works to the plan