



SAFETY ALERT

June 2024

Serious Injury from Stem Offcut

Situation:

A breaker-out recently suffered serious injuries when they were struck by an offcut section of stem. This happened in an experienced crew, while the breaker-out was notching a stump to prepare for a manual line shift for a swing-yarder on a steep backline.



The investigation into this incident highlighted the importance of:

Hazard awareness and risk management

- The ways of managing risk within the operation is understood by all and consistently applied.
- Try to eliminate hazards as the first option – some actions may potentially creating further hazards
- Planning for tasks – making and communicating a clear plan for all workers involved.
- Awareness of the location of other workers and how your actions may impact them.

Training, qualifications and supervision

- Ensuring all workers are trained and qualified for task, and providing adequate supervision for those who are not.
- Active training plans in place for all workers not yet qualified and deemed competent.
- Identifying, communicating and addressing items and trends that don't meet expectations.

Effective competency assessments

- Ensuring competency assessments cover all workers and parts of the operation.
- Assessments focus on various key aspects of the task, how they were demonstrated and any items requiring follow up.

Ensuring work is managed in a way that avoids creating or overlooking H&S risks