

Safety Alert!

Snow Damaged/Toppled Trees Under Tension

- Radiata Pine stand damaged by snow/weather events leaving toppled trees scattered throughout block
- In a thinning to waste operation, a thinner has come across two toppled trees, one above the other
- The thinner proceeded to cut the lower stem first, and being under tension, it snapped
- The thinner has stepped back and assessed the situation for 30 seconds and observed no further movement, proceeded to cut the stem fully off at the butt to allow the second stem to fall safely.
- Whilst finishing off the cut, the above tree has dropped and hit thinners hand in chainsaw mitt resulting in 12 days Lost time

Above stem that fell



tree being cut

Key Learnings

- Fully assess trees identifying possible tension risks before applying cuts
- Continually monitor for evolving risks that may occur
- Chainsaw operators to stop work where situations may arise when they are not confident in carrying out a task, and reach out to other crew members for advice/training/supervision.