

Safety Alert

Notice to all Contractors

Maintaining Effective Escape Routes

A sub-contract chainsaw operator working on a Euroforest harvesting site has suffered a lower leg fracture to both Tibia and Fibula, resulting in several nights in hospital and weeks of lost work.

At the time of the accident the operator was cross cutting a tree which had been winched down a slope of approximately 30%. Investigation into the causes can only speculate the exact sequence of events but it is clear that the stem was under some light tension( the operator has stated that he was clearing a trapped saw but there was only a very slight tearing of fibres on the cut he was making at the time).

The operator reports that the stem moved slightly, and it appears his one foot was trapped by the log in front and by brash behind, causing him to fall down slope breaking both lower leg bones.

Photographs taken at the time appear to show only limited opportunities for an escape and very heavy levels of lop and top underfoot. It is very likely that these factors both contributed to the accident and hampered recovery by first responders.

It is essential that we learn from incidents such as this and do not put ourselves or our employees in positions where escape routes are limited or compromised, time must be taken to clear the ground to allow a retreat into a safe position.

Together we aim to reduce the number of accidents and incidents which place our operators at risk, please take your role in delivering a safe work place seriously.

With thanks

Simon Wallis