



## Chainsaw lacerations to Arm

A harvester was felling large diameter Scots Pine, and the large crowns were being de-limbed by a chainsaw operator to allow the remaining crown to be processed by the harvester. The chainsaw operator had completed the de-limbing work, applied the chain brake, turned off the saw and was moving out of the work area. He was carrying the saw in the “working” two handed grip. The operator stepped onto the main stem of the tree, in an area where the bark had been stripped by the harvester’s knives. The chainsaw operator slipped, dropped the chainsaw, and his left arm landed on the top of the bar and chain. The exposed teeth caused two lacerations to his arm. The operator was given first aid, and subsequently attended hospital where three stitches were required in one wound, and five in the other.



The incident took place in mid- April, at the time when the sap flow within the trees is at its greatest rate, making the exposed stem extremely slippery, and bark on the stems prone to slide off.

1. Where practicable ensure the chain is guarded with a scabbard
2. Carry a chainsaw in one hand to the side and the bar facing backwards
3. If you start to fall push the saw away from the body if possible
4. Avoid stepping on stems or branches, especially during the sap rise

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