



## Hi-Vis vest becomes entangled in chainsaw starting mechanism

An incident occurred recently where an operator's high-vis vest became entangled in the starting mechanism of his chainsaw. The operator was cutting a thorn hedge to fence height using the saw close to his body.

While cutting, a torn section of his high-vis was drawn into the starter housing through broken air intake slots. The material snagged on the flywheel pulling the saw close to his body at full revs. This stopped the engine. The operator was very fortunate and no injuries were sustained.

The investigation immediately after the event found two major contributing causes:

- ◆ the operators high-vis vest was torn slightly, and,
- ◆ a number of cooling air intake slot guards on the chainsaw were missing



## Learning points

1. Ensure that all PPE is in good condition, properly fastened and free from snag hazards or hanging materials that can become entangled in starting mechanisms or the moving parts of the saw
2. Ensure that all guards on work equipment are intact, without defects, fit for purpose and meet the manufacturers' standards.
3. Report defects in PPE immediately and request that they are replaced as required
4. Ensure that all work equipment is thoroughly checked pre-use, and if defective, it is quarantined and not used until the defects are rectified
5. Missing guarding on any equipment, including starter housings, produces the potential for serious accidents, including the entry of fingers onto moving components. Never use equipment with damaged or missing guards - replaced them immediately