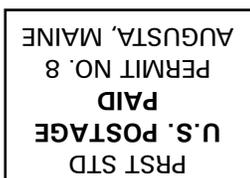


OCCUPATIONAL FATALITY REPORT

Wood Chipper Safety

Please Post



Bureau of Labor Standards
Research and Statistics Unit
Maine Department of Labor
45 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0045

SafetyWorks!, a program of the Maine Department of Labor, provides free training and consultations on workplace safety and health issues such as the one described inside. For more information, call toll-free **1-877-SAFE-345**.

Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance

The Research and Statistics Unit generates work-related injury and illness statistics. It provides annual counts, case characteristics and incidence rates of fatal and non-fatal injury and illness. The annual counts and case characteristics data are generated from the Employer's First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease submitted to the Maine Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) while incidence rates and fatal cases are derived from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injury and Illness (SOII) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) respectively.

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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Wood Chipper Safety

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards

OFR 03/08

Tree trimmer killed by a wood chipper

Incident

A Maine worker was killed from blunt chest trauma when he was trying to clear a clogged discharge chute of a trailer mounted wood chipper. The worker shut off the engine, disengaged the clutch, and climbed onto the chipper that was still running, removed the latch pin of the upper hood and proceeded to open the hood.



The knife blade caught the corner of the hood, throwing the hood into the impeller. The hood was blown off the chipper and fatally struck the worker in the chest.

Safety & Health Regulations and Standards

29 CFR-1910.147(c)(1): Energy control program. The employer shall establish a program consisting of energy control procedures, employee training and periodic inspections to ensure that before any employee performs any servicing or maintenance on a machine or equipment where the unexpected energizing, startup or release of stored energy could occur and cause injury, the machine or equipment shall be isolated from the energy source and rendered inoperative.

Injury Data

Since 2003, there were 19 chipper-related fatalities across the nation reported to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In addition, Federal BLS also reported an average of 210 workers sustained lost time injuries from working with chippers.

In Maine, from 1993 to 2006, forty-seven workers had filed First Reports for lost-time injuries with the Maine Worker's Compensation Board where chippers were reported to be the source of the injury.

Table 1: Fatalities Caused by Chippers (National CFOI)

| Year/Fatalities | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Fatalities | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 |

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

Table 2: Nonfatal Injuries Caused by Chippers (National data)

| Year/Fatalities | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Non-fatal injuries | 100 | 580 | 80 | 80 |

Data Source: Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)

Safety Resources

Injury Associated with Working Near or Operating Wood Chippers

www.cdc.gov/niosh/hid8.html

Safety Training and Consultation Services
www.safetyworksmaine.com/