

SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97301-3882

Accident Report

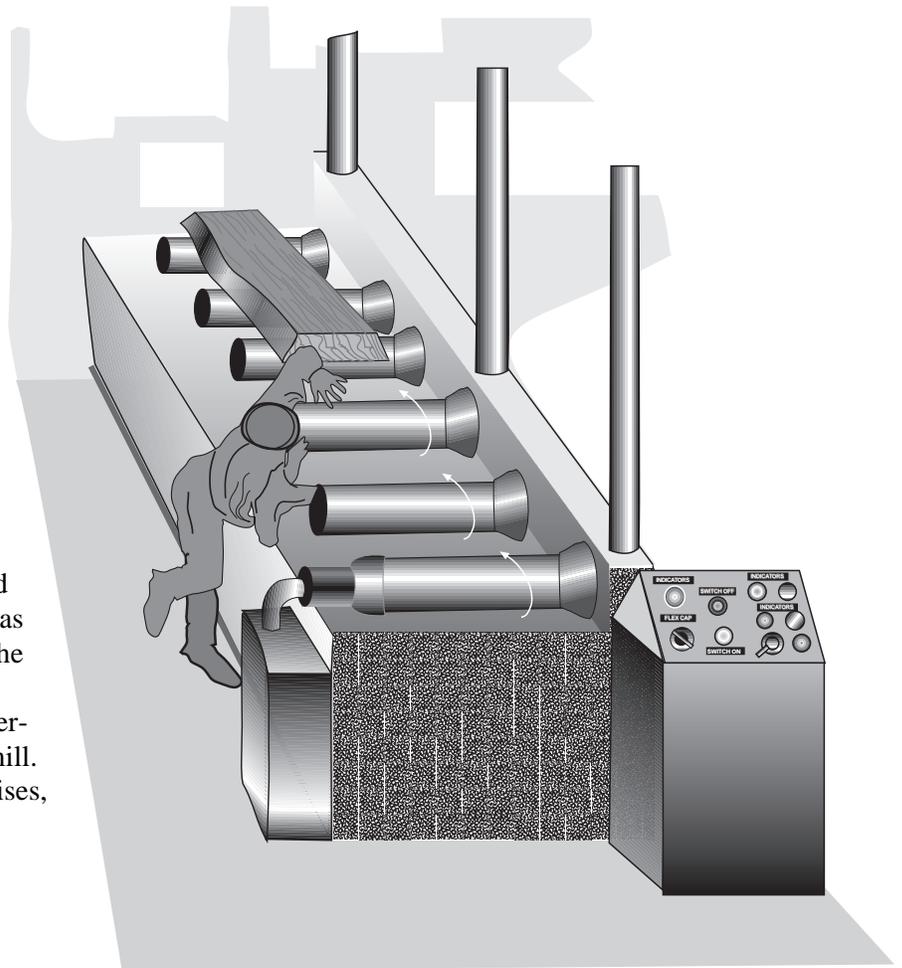
Accident type Caught in or between
Industry Sawmill
Employee job title Off-bearer

Accident description

Early on a workday in a lumber mill, the employee working nearest the headrig, which is the primary saw used on logs entering the mill, was doing his regular job as off-bearer. Headrig off-bearers guide cants (the first slabs cut from raw logs) and unusable portions of logs along live roll-cases to other saws or other locations in the mill.

On this morning, the off-bearer had a cant hung up on the roll-case, and he had walked away from his position near the headrig to straighten the cant. He was wearing an unfastened denim jacket. As he attempted to reach and move the cant on the roll-case, an unguarded roll-case sprocket wheel caught a front edge of the off-bearer's jacket and swiftly pulled him tightly against the roll-case. More of his jacket-front and both sleeves were pulled into the roll-case before the roll-case stopped.

The headrig sawyer, upon moving another log into position to cut, saw that the off-bearer was not in sight, and stepped out of the headrig booth to see what had happened. When he saw the victim pinned to the roll-case, the emergency whistle was sounded. Other employees responded to the scene and used pocketknives to cut the victim's jacket free of the roll-case as emergency personnel were on the way to the mill. The off-bearer sustained serious cuts, bruises, and arm injuries.



Investigation findings

The roll-case sprocket wheel was not guarded. Neither the mill manager nor the safety committee had considered the unguarded sprocket wheel a hazard to employees, although the mill manager said that the off-bearer would normally be expected to straighten out cants in that area.

Applicable standards

OAR 437-002-0313(6)(c)