

SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97310

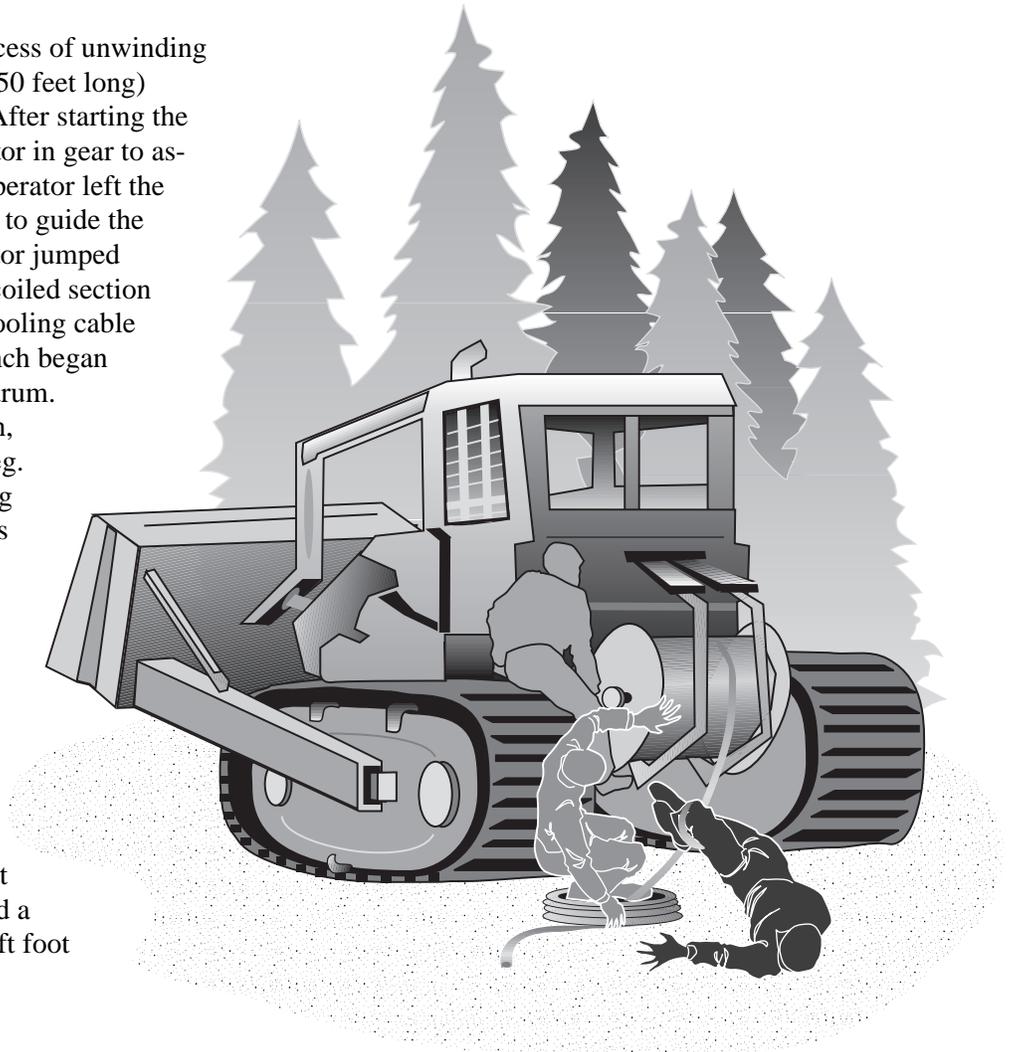
Accident Report

Accident type Foot trapped in winch
Industry Logging
Employee job title Hook tender

Description of accident

The hook tender was in the process of unwinding a haywire (a 3/8-inch wire rope 250 feet long) from the winch of a D-8 tractor. After starting the engine and placing the winch motor in gear to assist in unwinding the cable, the operator left the cab while the engine was running to guide the cable onto the ground. The operator jumped down from the equipment into a coiled section of cable on the ground. The unspooling cable jammed in the winch, and the winch began wrapping cable back around the drum. The coiled cable sprang to tension, wrapping around the operator's leg. The cable pulled the operator's leg into the winch, severing the man's foot above the ankle and pulling the operator's pants into the winch. The pant leg ripped off, the operator fell to the ground, and he was able to crawl to safety.

The injured man was spotted by a log truck driver who radioed company personnel on site for assistance. Despite prompt attention from EMS personnel and a hospital trauma unit, the man's left foot could not be saved.



Investigation findings

The injured worker left the operator's cab with the equipment running, contrary to manufacturer's recommendations. The worker had not received proper instruction or training for safe equipment operations and safe work practices.

Applicable standards

- OAR 437-006-0260(2)
- OAR 437-006-0260(3)