



Harvesting, processing, and loading Christmas trees



Event

Business: Harvesting Christmas trees

Injury: Open fracture of the left radius and ulna

Body part affected: Forearm

Occupation: Tree harvester

Event: The victim was baling Christmas trees in a Christmas tree field in Oregon. He was unloading the baled trees from a conveyer and the belt jammed. He pushed the belt with his left hand. The chain started to move and the conveyer belt grabbed his left hand and crushed his forearm.

Hazards

The following are hazards associated with harvesting, processing, and loading Christmas trees for shipping:

- **Drive mechanisms and belts on the conveyers are used to move the baled Christmas trees into the trailers.** Hazards during this process include unguarded shafts, shaft ends, chains and sprockets, belts, pulleys, and the conveyer belts at the point where they run over the rollers. These areas can cause serious injuries, such as cuts, crushing injuries, amputations, and broken bones. These areas must be guarded to ensure that the workers are protected.
- **Loose-fitting gear, clothing, suspenders, and even long hair** can increase the likelihood of a worker being caught up in the power-driven parts of the equipment.
- **Workers also access the beds or trailers used to transport trees from the fields to processing areas and loading yards.** There must be a safe way for workers to get into and out of the beds or trailers. If fixed ladders are used, there must be at least 7 inches of “toe space” measured from the center of the rung to the area behind the ladder. Distance from the ground to the first rung must be accessed without creating a fall hazard.
- **It’s important to have a general awareness of other hazards in the loading yard.**

Oregon
OSHA

Oregon OSHA
www.orosha.org
(800) 922-2689

DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER
& BUSINESS
SERVICES

Hazard alerts provide information on unusual safety or health hazards or unusual or hazardous materials or practices. For more information contact the Oregon OSHA Standard and Technical Resources Section at (503) 378-3272, toll free at (800) 922-2689 or visit our Web site at www.orosha.org.

OR-OSHA 2993 (9/07)