

## **Accident Synopsis**

**Date and Time of Accident:** November 13, 2018, at 12:01 p.m.

### **Brief Description of Accident:**

While operating a chainsaw, an employee experienced a kick back from the chainsaw. In an attempt to protect himself, he put his hand up to push the spinning saw chain away. This resulted in multiple lacerations to his left hand, surgery was needed to repair tendons in the hand.

### **Description of the Accident:**

The company had a tree thinning project in the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Trees that were less than 10 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) were cut down, cut into pieces, and put in piles. Another company's employees that were working for this company were instructed to cut the trees down, cut the trees into pieces, and pile the branches and wood debris. Then they were to trim the piles to look squared and parallel.

The victim was operating a power chainsaw and trimming one of the piles of branches and wood debris, as he was cutting one branch the tip of his power chainsaw hit another branch causing the power chainsaw to kickback. The kickback of the power chainsaw forced the victim's left hand off the front handle (handlebar) of the chainsaw, which left his right hand still on the back handle and throttle of the saw. The chainsaw was then at full throttle coming back toward his hip, so he put his hand up to push the spinning saw chain back away. When his hand hit the spinning saw chain it caused several lacerations to his hand.

Another employee was working with the victim and saw that he was injured, so he ran and got the supervisor. The supervisor provided first aid and transported him to a nearby hospital (Lake District Hospital) in Lakeview, Oregon for medical treatment.

The victim had received serious injuries to his left hand and Lake District Hospital was unable to provide the surgery needed to repair his hand. After being released by Lake District Hospital, the supervisor then transported Rafael to Sky Lakes Medical Clinic in Klamath Falls, Oregon where doctors there performed the needed surgery.

### **List of Violations:**

**OAR 437-007-0140(3)(d):** The employer did not provide job safety and health instruction and training that included the safe use, operation and maintenance of tools, equipment, machines and vehicles each employee used or operated, including following the manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions, warnings and precautions:

Lakeview, OR 97630. The employer did not provide training and instruction that included the safe use, operation and maintenance of power chainsaws, exposing the employees to serious injuries.

Probability: Medium

Severity: Serious

Penalty Amount: \$420 with 40% size reduction applied.

**OAR 437-007-0220(3)(c):** All supervisors and all cutters were not first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) trained prior to their initial assignment:

- a) On November 13, 2018, the employer did not ensure all supervisors and all cutters, approximately nine employees, were trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) prior to their initial assignment. Not having supervisors and cutters trained exposes employees to a delay in emergency care when a serious injury or life-threatening event occurs. The jobsite was located at T38S-R21E-S12, Lakeview, OR 97630.

Probability: Medium

Severity: Serious

Penalty Amount: \$420.00 with employer's -40% size reduction applied.

**OAR 437-007-0220(3)(d):** All new employees, other than supervisors and cutters, that are not first aid and CPR trained prior to their initial assignment must receive a first aid and CPR briefing.

- a) On November 13, 2018, approximately four employees had not received a briefing on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) prior to their initial assignment exposing them to a delay in in emergency care when a serious injury or life-threatening event occurs. The jobsite was located at T38S-R21E-S12, Lakeview, OR 97630.

This item did not contribute to the accident. It was expanded to do to the hazard presence could have cause a serious injury or could result in injuries causing death.

**OAR 437-007-0220(6)(a):** Written land directions to the worksite were not available near the worksite communication device(s) at worksites of more than 1-day duration:

- a) On November 13, 2018, the employer did not ensure that approximately 10 employees had their worksite location identified by township, range and section. The worksite duration was expected to be several weeks and it was located at T38S-R21E-S12, Lakeview, OR 97630. Not identifying the worksite location in the written land directions by Township, Range and Section exposed employee who work with power tools such as chainsaws to a significant delay in emergency medical care should a serious injury or life-threatening event occur.

Probability: Medium

Severity: Death

Penalty Amount: \$3600 with 40% size reduction applied.