

Date and Time of Accident: January 28, 2022 around 1:00 pm

Brief Description of Accident:

The victim, working as the Hook Tender, had the eye of the skyline in his hand and told his coworker, the Yarder Engineer, he needed a little more slack on the line. The skidding line brake was accidentally released, causing the carriage to come down the line. The victim's right hand was caught in the carriage's front shiv, resulting in an amputation of four fingers. The victim was transported to the hospital where he was admitted.

What the victim was doing at the time of the accident:

The victim, working as the Hook Tender, was part of a crew that was repositioning a swing yarder at the landing to set up a new road line. The carriage was at the landing, suspended approximately ten feet above the ground next to the yarder by the skidding line brake. The terminal eye end of the skidding line was attached to a hook at the base of the yarder. The victim, the Hook Tender, had the eye of the skyline in his hand and told his coworker, the Yarder Engineer, he needed a little more slack on the line. The skidding line brake was accidentally released by the Yarder Engineer, causing the carriage to drop down the line from its suspended position several feet above and strike the base of the yarder. The victim's right hand was caught in the carriage's front shiv as the carriage unexpectedly dropped down the line, resulting in an amputation of four fingers.

Description of the Accident:

The employer was in the process of logging an area that had been burned by a wildfire. The yarder and carriage were positioned at the landing with the carriage suspended next to the yarder by the skidding line brake. The crew had just turned the swing yarder ninety degrees to set up for a new road line. The motorized carriage was still on the skyline which was connected to the skidding line. The skyline was attached to a hook on the front of the yarder. The skyline was tight. The victim/Hook Tender was waiting for the Yarder Engineer to loosen the skyline so he could take it off the hook and the crew could start setting up the new road line to be logged. The victim grabbed the skyline with his right hand. The Yarder Engineer was standing inside the cab looking down at the victim. The Yarder Engineer was going to release the tension on the skidding line. The Yarder Engineer's foot slipped off the foot brake allowing the sky car to crash down on to the hook. During this, the victim still was holding onto the skyline, resulting in the amputation of four fingers on his right hand.

Violation:

OAR 437-007-0900(2)(a): When vehicles or machines were moved within the landing area all personnel did not stay in the clear of the vehicle(s) or machine(s):

- a) On or about January 28, 2022, the employer did not ensure that all employees located on the landing in the process of repositioning a logging cable road were in the clear of the yarder, suspended sky car carriage, or associated lines each time before any were moved. As a result, one ground-based employee was seriously injured when he requested the skyline to be slacked while holding onto the line. Four fingers were amputated when the suspended motorized sky car carriage was inadvertently released down the same line that the employee was holding onto.

Penalty Medium/serious

\$300.00 based on size of company.