

SAFETY ALERT



TITLE: Dozer High Potential Incident

Number: 90

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Background

On 23 March, an FPC contractor machine operator was using a D6 tracked caterpillar dozer (tree bar fitted) to scrubroll fire damaged karri regrowth. The dozer blade was raised 400 mm - 500 mm and has come into contact with a stump, the machine operator cautiously reversed the machine and the back left hand corner of the track has slipped into a 1200 mm depression, causing the machine to very slowly tip onto its left side.

Fortunately, the machine operator was uninjured, but this had the potential to cause serious harm.

The incident was reported to WorkSafe. Under the WHS Regulations the incident was notifiable to WorkSafe as classified as a dangerous incident (overturning of plant).

Key Points

- Site assessment had been completed, tree stumps identified as potential hazard.
- Machine ROPS/FOPS/OPG compliant, operator was wearing a seatbelt.
- Experienced operator, unfamiliar with working environment.
- Thick scrub, reduced operator visibility.
- Ground implements (blades and rippers) should be kept as low to the ground as possible during operation, particularly when operating on uneven surfaces.
- Training and assessment material to be reviewed to ensure it adequately covers hazards and controls identified in operational risk assessments.

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