



## NEW MACHINE HAZARD

A new machine was purchased by Sparrow Logging in Southland to operate as a landing machine for loading trucks and fleeting logs. The original cab was still on the machine with extra guarding retro fitted over top to comply with RMF and ISO standards. The door was also heavily guarded to prevent side intrusion.

Due to the excessive weight in the door the operator would rely on the momentum of slewing to gently bring the door around. As the operator went to close the door by pressing the release handle, he was unaware the door was already unlatched and was closing. At this point the operator had his arm between the hand rail and the hinge end of the door. As the heavy door closed, it wedged his elbow between the hand rail and door causing instant bruising and swelling. Due to shock the operator broke out into an immediate sweat. This incident had the potential to cause serious harm to the operator through a fractured or shattered elbow.

A preventative measure has been taken where there is a vertical extension on the release handle which protrudes above the hand rail. The extension means that the operator can avoid putting his hand down between the door and hand rail, therefore eliminating the hazard. The handle can also fold back out of the operator's way once the door is closed.

