



Engineering Services (Rotorua) Limited

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To all Woodsman Pro 700, 800 and FH1350 owners,

SAFETY ALERT - Saw motor cover incident

A recent incident has shown up a potential hazard involving the cover of the main saw motor on the above Woodsman Pro models. In order to minimise this hazard, we ask that you take these three steps:

- take the time to familiarise yourself with this issue;
- alert your team to the hazard; and
- implement our proposed solution as soon as practical.

Background

Whilst attempting to repair a hose leak on a harvester, a worker had part of his finger severed when trying to remove the saw motor cover.

The incident occurred when the worker and another staff member unbolted the cover, then proceeded to prise the cover up using screwdrivers. The cover was very slippery due to oil leakage. The workers attempted to lift the cover with their fingers underneath, however, both workers lost their grip and the cover slipped out of their hands catching - and severing - part of one of the workers' index fingers.

Investigations have since been undertaken by the forestry contractor, WorkSafe and Engineering Services (Rotorua) Ltd.

Proposed solution

Engineering Services (Rotorua) Ltd are providing a steel handle for each of the affected covers, to assist in the safe removal and insertion of the cover. This handle will be sent to you free of charge in the coming weeks, and **should be welded to the saw motor cover as per the attached drawings as soon as practical.**

Alternatively, please contact Engineering Services (Rotorua) Ltd to either;

- have the handle welded onsite at Engineering Services (Rotorua) Ltd; or
- arrange to have the handle welded by one of our service personnel on their next visit to your site.

Woodsman Pro 700: Refer drawing and part no. W001-2797

Woodsman Pro 800: Refer drawing and part no. W001-2795

Woodsman Pro FH1350: Refer drawing and part no. W001-2796

Forestry equipment maintenance is a high-risk activity at any time and extra care should be taken with handling the saw motor cover until this solution has been implemented.

Woodsman Pro 750, 850 and newer FH1350 models (serial numbers 36850914 and higher) are not affected, as handles are incorporated in the saw motor covers on these units.

There have been many accidents involving mechanical harvesters both in New Zealand and overseas, some causing serious harm. Engineering Services (Rotorua) Ltd and Woodsman Pro encourage forest managers, forestry contractors and operators to openly share any learnings that come from accident investigations, so others can improve their safety awareness and systems as a result.

For any queries regarding the above, please contact:

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Kind regards,

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