



HAZARD ALERT

Fatal Incident Involving a Wood Chip Reclaimer at a Paper Mill

A 20-year employee and USW member who recently transferred from the converting plant to the woodyard was on his last shift of a two week training period running a dozer on the chip pile. He dismounted from the dozer and walked parts of the chip pile for reasons unknown.

While standing in the proximity of a chip reclaimer, a portion of the wood chip bed unexpectedly collapsed underneath him. He was working alone at the time of the incident.



Recommendations to Prevent Recurrence:

- ALL employees new to the job, process, and/or task must be provided with written procedures including, but not limited to, instructing the dozer operator to stay in the cab unless there is an emergency.
- Unless the dozer is broken down or an emergency, always exit the cab in designated areas.
- Establish a safety zone around the infeed of the wood chip reclaimers by working with employees and their representatives. Dozer manuals can provide assistance.
- Develop training materials, videos, photos, etc., to aid with hazard identification and controls needed for wood chip pile safety—including upset conditions. [Note: Check sheets are not a substitute for proper training materials and procedures. Signatures do not mean compliance, only attendance].
- Training quality must be based on the experience, not the number of calendar days.
- Ensure trainers are provided with the tools, skills and knowledge needed.
- Ensure effective communications are maintained by using radios, headsets with microphones, warning lights, etc.
- Evaluate Management Of Organizational Change process to ensure downsizing, transfers and staffing issues, that impact the line-of-progression, training and manning cushions, don't result in negative consequences on health and safety. This applies to the whole organization



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This hazard alert is based on an actual incident, and reflects our best understanding of the incident at the time it was written. However, many incidents have multiple causes; this alert may not cover all of them. The purpose of the alert is to illustrate workplace hazards; it is not intended to be a comprehensive report on the incident.