

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 34

Date: 14 August 2020	Focus Group: Hauler Extraction/Breaking-out
Topic: Safe Retreat Position	Issued by: Craig Fisher

Background and Incident: The breaker-outs retreated but not out to the safe retreat position (SRP) of 37 meters. The call to move the rigging was signalled as the plan was to move the rigging forward, then to stop it, so that a second stem could be attached. However, a miscommunication then occurred, which resulted in the stem moving. **This was not part of the original plan** and in a matter of seconds, the moving stem unexpectedly turned and struck one of the breaker-outs who was standing in to close.

Injury Details: Fractured ribs and scapula, punctured lung, hospitalisation (ICU) – LTI.

Risk Awareness: Uneven and steep terrain, hinderance and large moving objects make breaking-out unpredictable. Stems may break into pieces, dislodge unstable material and/or move at 360 degrees to their original position. As a mechanism of injury, stems are large and capable of causing serious harm to the breaker-outs!

Safe Behaviours: The [ACOP s.12](#) contains rules to protect breaker-outs. Foremost is that the Contractor “...shall have a **documented process to determine and identify the SRP**, taking into account: (1) any swinging or upending log or stem, (2) mean tree height, (3) obstacles that may restrict movement or vision, and (4) material likely to be dislodged.” The SRP process, **including communications must be strictly followed to protect breaker-outs** from serious harm. [Additional guidance can be found in the BPG.](#)

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

