

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 50

Date: October 2022	Focus Group: All Operations
Topic: Medical Incidents at Work	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: A log truck driver reported feeling chest pains during loading at the crew. Loading stopped and the crew assisted the driver with first aid. No ambulance was available and the crew had to convince the local medical centre to open early, which fortunately they did before arranging to transfer the patient to hospital.

Injury Details: Medical tests could not determine the cause – it is possible that the driver was suffering from the effects of a sporting accident he had on the previous weekend.

Risk Awareness: Medical incidents, unrelated to work hazards, occur more frequently than we might think including sudden death on the job. And, specialist help, in rural NZ is often patchy or overloaded, making our response, in the ‘[golden hour](#)’ (the traditional one-hour for a time-dependent and prompt response) a matter of life and death.

Safe Behaviours: The crew responded correctly, however, they and their local PF Olsen Managers would like to share some of the things they have learned from this incident:

- Constant phone contact with the emergency services was very helpful.
- Clear instructions in harvest plans or silviculture equivalent on how an ambulance gets to the nearest forest gate are invaluable. Provide RAPID #'s if possible.
- Download the [AED App](#) to show the location of the nearest AED/defibrillators.
- Have a plan B (and maybe a plan C) for when emergency services cannot respond.

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)

