

# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 51

<b>Date:</b> November 2022	<b>Focus Group:</b> All Operations
<b>Topic:</b> Upset Condition – Leading to Incidents	<b>Issued by:</b> Nic Steens

**Background and Incident:** (1) A tree feller using a different chainsaw to normal rested the saw on his leg and the spinning chain cut into his chaps. (2) Driving up a track, a van lost traction. The immediate thought was to disconnect the trailer, which was too heavy to hold on the slope. It rolled down hill damaging the spade box and wheel bearing.

**Injury Details:** Both incidents were non-injury, however, they did result from ‘upset conditions’ and caused property damage – chaps have been replaced and trailer fixed.

**Risk Awareness:** Upset conditions are interruptions in the regular running of the work process or distractions that break the normal work routine. Incident reviews (conducted by the [BC Forestry Safety Council](#)) suggest that workers are up to **35 times more likely** to be injured while working during an upset condition than normal operating conditions.

**Safe Behaviours:** Crew and individual workers can benefit greatly by keeping upset conditions ‘top-of-mind’. By watching closely for any event, circumstance, or situation that might harbour an ‘upset condition’ they can then use the [RADAR](#) process:

- Recognise the risk
- Assess the situation – stop to think
- Develop a safe solution
- Act safely to fix the problem (or to keep an eye out)
- Report and record the upset condition.

**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)

