

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 92

Date: September 2025	Focus Group: Trainees/Supervisors
Topic: Chainsaw Laceration	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background: On the 12th of August 2025, a supervised trainee slipped on wet pine needles while notching stumps for a backline tailhold. His hand engaged the chainsaw throttle, causing the chain to catch the strapping on his chaps and pull the saw into his left calf. While the incident was reported after two days, the injury was initially misjudged, and it took 16 days before full details were received — confirming it as a serious, notifiable cut.

Injury Details: The worker sustained a chainsaw laceration to the outer left leg. Immediate first aid was administered on site, and he was transported to hospital for stitches. He lost three days of work but has fully recovered.

Risk Awareness: Slips, trips, and falls are a major risk on steep, wet terrain. Using a chainsaw incorrectly, or while tired or rushing further increases the chance of injury. Always maintain a stable stance (footing) and safe posture. Close supervision — including in-process coaching for trainees — is essential for safe outcomes.

Safe Behaviours (to reduce slip and trip injuries) and **advice on injury management:**

- Maintain your footing, scan ahead, and pace yourself in slippery terrain — don't rush.
- Use the chain brake to avoid unintended activation; closely supervise new workers.
- Know what constitutes a notifiable Injury — [the list includes serious lacerations](#).
- Report promptly so we can learn why controls failed and share lessons.
- Quick reporting also helps PF Olsen meet legal obligations and client expectations.

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)

