

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 68

Date: March 2024	Focus Group: All Staff and Contractors
Topic: Shot Fired Near Operation	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: At approximately 3:00 am, a neighbour discharged a firearm near the forest entrance. Two truck drivers, parked closeby, suspected the rifle shot was aimed at their trucks. Later that day the neighbour approached the crew loader operator with a gun across his back. He claimed to have been earlier shooting a possum but also expressed dissatisfaction with the noise and light from early truck arrivals.

Injury Details: No injuries or damage to any parties but a high potential for both.

Risk Awareness: Firing a gun near the operation at night endangered the truck drivers' safety. The armed approach to the loader operator, combined with expressing his discontent, could have escalated into conflict and further firearm discharge.

Safe Behaviours: The Arms Act 1983 prohibits discharging a weapon without reasonable cause in a manner likely to injure or endanger, or with reckless disregard. It also mandates a lawful, proper, and sufficient purpose for using, discharging, or carrying any firearm, whether on private or public property. In high-risk situations like these, workers and managers must prioritise personal safety. If unexpected gunfire or perceived threats occur, individuals should remain in their vehicles, lock the doors, and promptly contact the NZ Police. Additionally, while it's appropriate to gather reliable information, the investigation and determination of whether the law has been broken or if the situation warrants further action (to mitigate the risk) must be left to the appropriate authorities. This advice will be integrated into our General Safety Rules (GSRs).

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

- Discuss with employees/operators:
- Place on-site notice board or in file:

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

