



Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic

Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract



Accident Type: Employee finger mashed between log and wood chipper infeed chute edge

Injury: Severe tissue injury to right index finger

Damage: None

Type of Work: Chipping wood (from tornado damage)

Equipment: Morbark Wood Chipper

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A PWD operations employee was putting tree limbs into a wood chipper from tornado damaged trees. While conducting chipping operations, a "Y" shaped limb shifted and would not go through the feed chute. Upon repositioning the limb, the feed wheel grabbed the limb causing it to shift instantly upward, while the employee's hand was still on the limb, and mashed the employee's right index finger between the limb and the outer edge of the top edge of the chipper infeed chute.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Employees hand mashed between tree limb and chipper in-feed chute while the chipper was running.

INDIRECT CAUSE:

- Lack of Situational Awareness and Proper Application of Task Risk Management
- Lack of Job Specific Training

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Never stand in front of the feed table when the chipper is running
- Cut all “Y” shaped branches and trees into a “straight” log before putting them in the chipper chute

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Decertify all chipper operators until all supervisors and employees are re-trained by a factory representative.
- Reinforce the importance of situational awareness when operating a wood chipper.
- Incorporated the mandated use of NAVFAC MIDLANT Wood Chipper SOP #700E0.00
- Create and incorporate a fully comprehensive checklist for wood chipper operations to supplement SOP
- Implement and mandate annual refresher training for all authorized wood chipper operators