

FATALITY ALERT

On 27 August, 2015 at approximately 15:00 the motor on a log deck feeding a debarker began smoking. The log deck was shut down and maintenance was called to troubleshoot the motor. The 410 operator that loads the log deck with incoming log walk on the north side of the log deck walked around to the south side of the log deck and climbed the stairs to gain entry to the top of the log deck. Maintenance personnel and the 410 operator proceeded to walk out onto the log deck to gain access to the motor for troubleshooting purposes. The log deck is approximately 15 feet above the lower level and no one on the log deck was wearing fall protection.

Maintenance decided to try to bump the motor as part of the troubleshooting process and had everyone exit the log deck. The 410 operator was exiting the log deck when he lost his footing on the west edge of the log deck and fell 15 feet to the lower level and died of injuries.

Significant Factors

- Employees do not wear fall protection while working on the log deck
- Employees were not adequately trained on fall protection
- Employees did not lockout and tagout the log deck

Recommendations

- Brief all employees about the incident
- Require employees wear fall protection while on the log deck
- Train employees on fall protection
- Ensure employees lockout and tagout mechanicals systems before maintenance begins