

Engulfment Hazard

This incident was not at a West Fraser Division

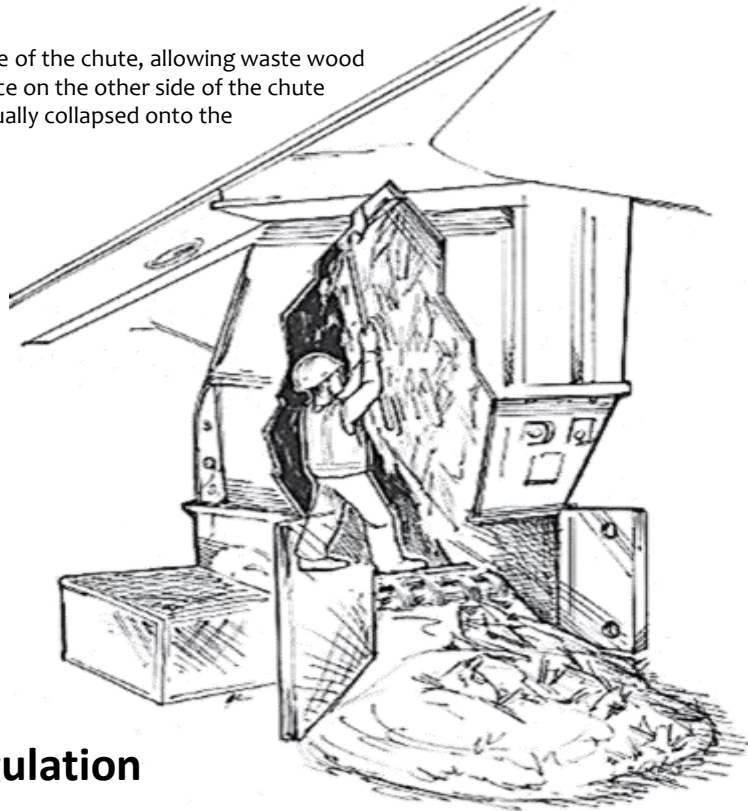
Sawmill worker dies while unplugging waste wood in hog chute

At a British Columbia sawmill in 2004, the vertical chute of a hog machine became plugged with waste cedar (log ends, back, and sawdust). Workers opened the bottom access doors to unplug the machine. One worker went inside the chute and stood on the rotor to clear the plug. Other workers removed waste wood through the doors. The worker inside the chute was later found surrounded by waste wood and could not be revived.

A large piece of wood had probably wedged itself on one side of the chute, allowing waste wood to build up above it. The worker was able to stand in the space on the other side of the chute to clear the jam. The unstable build-up of waste wood eventually collapsed onto the worker and engulfed him.

Safe Work Practices

- Identify engulfment hazards-loose, unstable materials that could collapse on workers and trap, bury, or injure them.
- Do not enter any space with a danger of being trapped or engulfed in loose materials without proper precautions.
- Develop written safe work procedures for unplugging machines that contain waste wood. Train workers to follow these procedures.
- Supervise workers to ensure they follow safe work procedures.
- If the engulfment hazard is in a confined space, do not allow workers to enter unless a qualified person has developed a written confined space entry program and all program requirements are followed



WorkSafeBC Regulation

4.34 Restricted Entry

Hazardous areas not intended to be accessible to workers must be secured by locked doors or equivalent means of security, and must not be entered unless safe work procedures are developed and followed

4.44 Entrapment

A worker must not enter or remain in any place where there is a danger of entrapment or engulfment in loose materials or from other circumstances unless

- (a) Safe access and a safe work area is provided by catwalks, barriers or other means, or
- (b) Measures are taken, where practicable, to control the risk of entrapment or engulfment and , if the risk is not eliminated, the worker uses a lifeline and harness of a type that will keep the worker in a position so as to be able to be rescued and is continuously tended by a standby person who is equipped for and capable of effecting immediate rescue.



West Fraser