

# Safety Alert: Chainsaw Kickback

Date: 17/01/2024	Focus Group: All Forestry Contractors
Topic: Chainsaw kickback	Issued by: Travis Terry

**Incident:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, a silviculture worker sustained a LTI after a chainsaw ‘kickback’ event resulted in the bar and chain coming into contact with the side of his head.

- Background:**
- The crew was undertaking thinning work on the third day back after the Christmas break.
  - The worker was attempting to clear vegetation around the tree identified for felling.
  - The tip of the bar has contacted a piece of gorse causing the saw to kickback without activating the safety chain brake.
  - The saw has travelled back where it has, initially, struck the visor before dislodging both it and the helmet.
  - It has continued on this path and come into contact with the side of his head around the temple area inflicting a laceration to the head.

**Investigation Findings / Risk Awareness:**

While there were recommendations relating to changes in the technique applied in this particular situation to prevent this reoccurring. The investigation identified that, when the chainsaw was held in a particular position along the wrap around handle, the safety chain brake may not activate as expected in the event of kickback.

- Safety Behaviour:**
- When using a chainsaw be prepared for the possibility of kickback.
  - The contractor has implemented a coloured band on the roll over handle (see photo) to serve as a visual reminder to operators of the position of their hand and the heightened risk of the chain brake not activating if required while their hand is in this position.

**Site Manager use**

1. This safety alert has been reviewed with all relevant employees and or operators      Y/N

2. Sign-off by all those people present completed      Y/N

Site Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:        /        /

