

Harvester screen smashed

What happened?

A work squad were extracting whole-tree with a skyline to a laydown area.

When a sufficient volume of trees had been stockpiled, the skyline crew were standing down.

A timber harvester was then moving in to process the trees into short wood lengths.

The harvester operator was pulling trees from the top of the pile into an area to his machines side, where he was then processing them, keeping the brush pile and short wood lengths separate.

It is assumed that the tree which caused the damage must have been snagged by other trees in the pile. As the operator applied more crane force, it broke free and struck the front window of the cab, completely caving in the margard screen. These margard screens are built and tested to withstand a force of 17,800N, for it to smash is indicative of the level of force that was generated

The operator was uninjured, other than a small graze to his hand from a section of broken margard which fell into the cab.



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Created by, Scottish Woodlands Compliance Support Team



What can we learn?

When pulling trees from a stockpile ensure you are directing them into a safe area - not toward the machine.

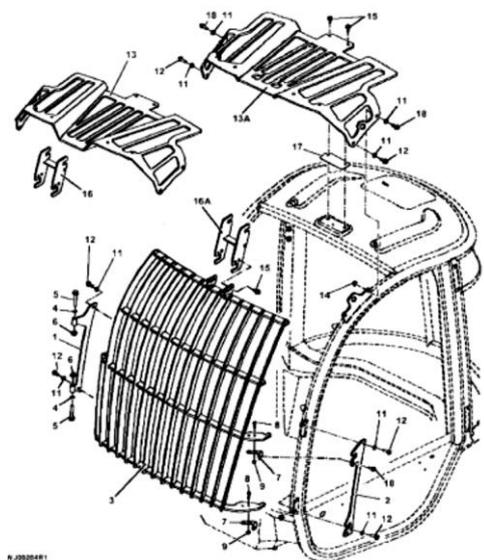
The operator had taken hold of the tree a third of the way up the tree stem, when the tree sprang loose from the pile it was the section below the harvesting head which swung and struck the cab windscreen.

Try to grab the tree by the butt, this will give you better control of the direction of the pull and will ensure tree stops at the end of the anticipated arch of your crane, well away from your cab.

When stockpiling trees by winch and skyline for processing by a harvester, consider the following

- the landing area size and location and how this can affect the room for the harvester to work.
- How the tree stock pile can be stacked evenly with the tree stems aligned to allow the harvester operator to then work the stockpile in an efficient and safe manner.
- The stockpile height, - can the operator see over the stems, so he can cleanly pull off the top of the stockpile?
- Tree size, weight and heaviness of branching and are there broken stems within the pile which could tangle?
- Regularly check your margard windscreens for damage, replace them if they are damaged or show signs of wear. Excessive scratching will remove the UV protective lay and may lead to hidden structural degradation. A damaged or degraded windscreen will not offer you the same level of protection

If you are working on the processing of timber stockpiles or in heavy wind blow, where you having to move and cut trapped or tangled trees, consider fitting additional cab guarding. Once the base fittings are in place, these guards can easily be fitted and removed from the main four bolt attachments.



Additional machine cab guarding kits should be considered

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