
News Release



Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick

For Immediate Release

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WHSCC INVESTIGATES SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT JDI SAWMILL

Saint John, NB: The Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) is investigating a serious accident at the Grand Rivière Sawmill, near St-Léonard, New Brunswick.

A WHSCC officer was dispatched as soon as the accident was reported, at approximately 2:45 p.m. on April 17. A 34-year-old labourer suffered serious injuries when he was pulled under a conveyor belt at the sawmill. Co-workers administered first aid while waiting for the worker to be transported to the Edmundston Regional Hospital, where he remains unconscious and in critical condition.

An investigation is ongoing to determine whether there were violations to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. At this time, no orders have been written or charges laid.

Although it is too early to draw conclusions on this specific incident, the WHSCC reminds workplaces of safety requirements when working with sawmill equipment.

- Ensure zero energy and lockout of all machinery, or develop a code of practice.
- Ensure equipment is properly guarded.
- Ensure their employees receive adequate training on the risks of their jobs and work safely.

ABOUT THE WHSCC

The WHSCC administers no-fault workplace accident and disability insurance for employers and their workers, funded solely through assessments on employers. The WHSCC is committed to preventing workplace injuries and illness through education and the enforcement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.