

# Safetree Safety Alert

## Guarding, Falls from Height

**Post this alert on your workplace noticeboards. Discuss it at safety or tailgate meetings.**

Mechanisation has helped improve safety in forestry by reducing the number of people doing the high-risk tasks of manual falling and breaking out. However, mechanisation can introduce new risks, including the risk of injuries from people falling from machinery.

One of the most effective ways to prevent falls from machinery, or any large plant and equipment, is to use guardrails.

When buying machinery, make sure the supplier has installed all the required guardrails. Suppliers can also provide advice about retrofitting guardrails onto existing machinery where necessary.

Guarding against fall from height is particularly important for when people are accessing, inspecting, cleaning, maintaining, and repairing machinery. It needs to include a top-rail, mid-rail, and a kick-plate.

Guarding protects your workers and your business from the consequence of someone falling. It uses engineering to control the risk, which is much more effective than 'administrative' controls like processes and procedures. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, business owners are expected to adopt the most effective risk controls available, not just the cheapest or most convenient.

**More information:** [Working at height in New Zealand | WorkSafe](#)

### *Examples of machinery guarding*

