

Notification Number

AUCK 006

Safety Alert

Health Alert

Best Practice Advice

Innovation Advice

Environmental Alert

Environmental Focus

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

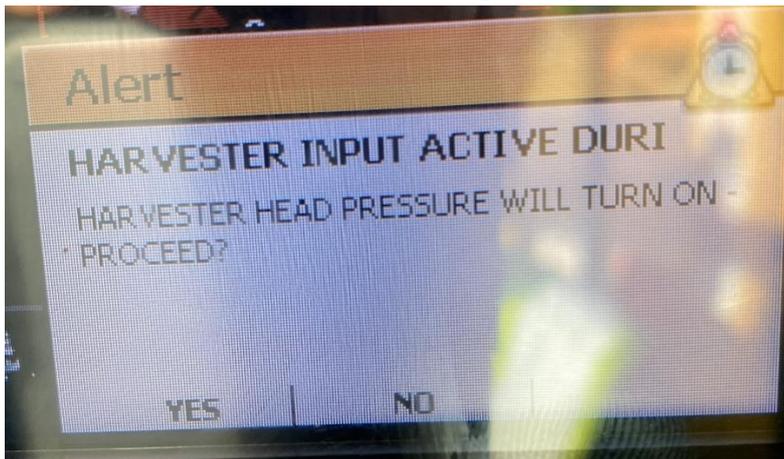
**Focus Group:** Harvesting Suppliers and Heavy Transport Drivers

**Region:** Canterbury

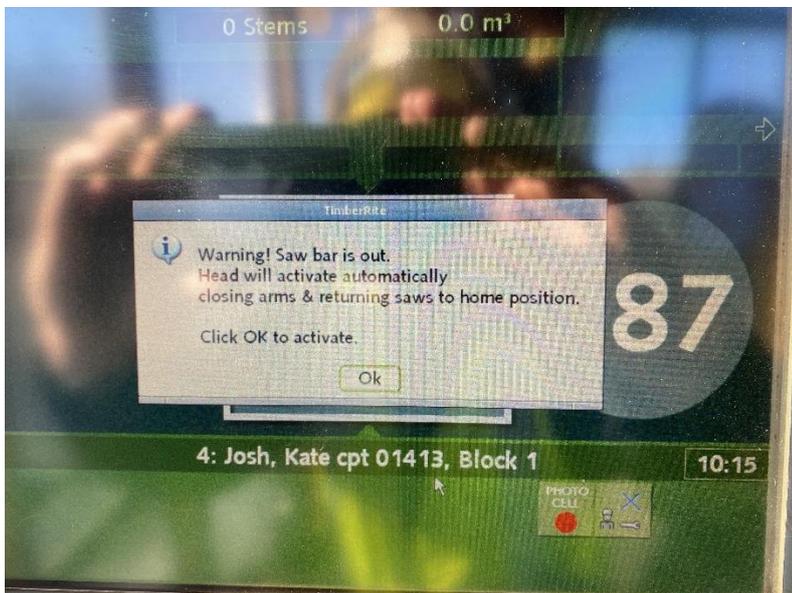
**Topic:** Unexpected machine movement

## Background

- A Tigercat 880 base with a Waratah 625 Processor head, had been transported to a new location. The processor was situated on the transporter deck with the rollers open, facing down. A block of wood was placed under the front delimiting knife to prevent damage during transport.
- The operator (experienced but he had not operated this specific machine before) went to take the processor off the transporter deck, and to do so started the Tigercat computer as well as the Waratah computer.
- The Tigercat computer showed the following message:



- The Waratah computer showed the following message:



- Without the “Yes to proceed” button or the “ok to activate” button being selected, both the Tigercat and Waratah head carried out these functions.
- The Waratah head closed the rollers and saw, making the head move unexpectedly and rapidly. The transporter driver was close by, with the intention of removing the block that was under the Waratah head.

### Risk

- Sudden unexpected machine movement combined with the task requiring ground staff to work near the machine

### Findings

- Without the “Yes” button being pressed, the Tigercat sent oil to the Waratah head to pressurize it, so it can perform its function.
- The “Ok” button was not pressed on the Waratah screen, and it inadvertently did the function without the operator’s approval.
- The company has another a similar machine setup. They inspected a Tigercat 875 with the same Waratah 625 processor head, when the same message comes up the head does not carry out this function until the ok button is pressed.
- The function, where the “Ok” button must be pressed, had been disabled prior to purchasing the machine.
- The transporter driver was aware of the dangers with processor heads, so he was at a comfortable distance to avoid being hurt by the sudden movement of the processor head.

### Learnings

- The manufactures had created a failsafe system that can be disabled.
- The machine supplier has set-up the machine to bypass both these computer safety functions.
- Other machine operators who have operated this machine before were aware that it did this, but this had not been expressed to everyone or workshop staff.
- The contractor has instructed the machine supplier to investigate the machine and rectify the safety features.
- The incident was discussed with all staff. The key message is, if you are aware of a safety feature not functioning properly, you need to stand in the gap and inform the people that may be affected and those that can get it repaired.
- The contractor is creating a procedure that outlines the dangers and the potential for unexpected movement. A part of this will be that all ground staff need to maintain a 3-meter safe distance from any processor head during startup.
- Waratah to be informed of this incident. The safety function had been disabled creating an unintended consequence. Perhaps this needs to be a standard check for technicians inspecting or performing work processors (ensure it functions as intended). Waratah should ensure that this fail-safe feature functions as intended.
- Share the incident findings with our processor WOF inspector. Ensure that this functionality is checked and tested when performing WOF inspections.