Radio communications must be confirmed between equipment operators

Location: K-40, Monashee area (east of Vernon, BC)

Date of Incident: October 5, 2010

Details of Incident: A yarder machine had a broken cable line so the operator shut the machine down and began splicing an eye in the cable on the landing. The loader man confirmed that the skidder operator was advised by radio not to move trees on the landing that the cable was resting on.

The skidder operator did not hear the radio communication and began to pull trees away. The cable was snagged by the skidder which moved the trees, pulling the cable out of the yarder operator’s hands. This resulted in the jagged ends of the cable cutting his left wrist, requiring a few stitches.

Recommended Preventative Actions: Better communication between operators is mandatory. The yarder operator and loader man should have waited for a response from the skidder operator, confirming he had heard the instructions by radio.

For more information, please call: Dan-O Contracting Ltd. 250-260-6012