



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

File handle “hack” leads to serious injury

Date of Incident: July 2024 (New Zealand)

Details: A worker attempted to fit a partially rotten piece of branch as a chainsaw file handle. He was forcefully pressing the wooden handle onto the file with the palm of his hand, the file was not centered in the middle of the branch, and as pressure was applied the file broke through the handle and penetrated through his palm up into his wrist.

The worker was taken to hospital and underwent surgery to safely remove the file from his palm, which resulted in a lost time injury.

Learnings:

There is real and serious risk associated with not using the right replacement parts when fixing things, even simple tools like a file.



Recommendations:

- Always consider the potential hazard through a proper assessment – and document it
- Use only approved manufactured chainsaw file handles (plastic or wooden)
- Ensure workers have correct parts and supplies available and that they know where to find them



To submit a safety alert click [here](#)



BC Forest Safety

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