

Waratah Driver Incident

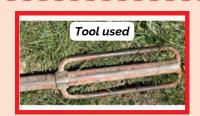
Name: Date Read:

WHAT HAPPENED?

There were two incidents where farm workers suffered significant hand injuries after using waratah drivers to place a waratah post for anchoring or fencing. Both incidents required hospital admittance and surgery.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

- In both incidents, the farm worker lost control of the waratah driver handle whilst ramming
- Neither of the farm workers wore gloves at the time of the incidents lack of protection resulted in significant hand injuries



HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

Before starting work:

- 1. Ensure that all team members using the waratah driver understand the safe use of the tool and are trained, competent and physically capable
- 2. Discuss whether there is an alternative method of anchor system which is not reliant on using the current waratah driver you have
- 3. Consider if other tool options might be more appropriate for your team
- 4. Discuss your working alone procedures, and how you record incidents
- 5. Share this with your teams and talk about how it applies to your farm

While doing the job:

- 1. Check the underground conditions before starting (e.g. is the underground surface rocky?)
- 2. Ensure that the operator takes a well-balanced stance before driving
- 3. Tap the waratah in a few centimetres (e.g. 15cm) to stabilise and straighten it before the last few heavy slams
- 4. Always wear leather gloves and safety glasses
- 5. Ensure you have emergency items available like a personal locator beacon (PLB), cellphone, or first aid radio

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