



SAFETY ALERT

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



Safer Farms has made every effort to ensure the information contained in this publication is reliable, but makes no guarantee of its completeness. Safer Farms may change the contents of this guide at any time without notice. This document is a guideline only and should not be relied on as meeting your requirements without legal or professional advice. It should not be used as a substitute for legislation or legal or professional advice. Safer Farms is not responsible for the results of any action taken on the basis of information in this document, or for any errors or omissions.

SAFE FARMING STARTS HERE:

farmwithoutharm.org.nz/safety-alerts

FARM
WITHOUT HARM