

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 69

Date: March 2024	Focus Group: All Staff and Contractors
Topic: De-energizing Machinery	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: During fuel-line bleeding, a worker accidentally dropped a hand-held radio. The radio rolled under three S30 logs held in the grapple, which had been de-energized by resting it on the ground. While retrieving the radio, the worker leaned on the logs, causing the bottom log to fall from the grapple and land on their foot. They freed their foot, restarted the machine, and retrieved their boot.

Injury Details: No injuries or damage to any parties but a high potential for both.

Risk Awareness: Workers must recognise that even when machinery is de-energized or appears to be in a safe state, residual energy or stored potential in hydraulic systems can still pose significant risks. Moreover, there may be a tendency for workers to become desensitised to the ‘mechanisms of injury’ associated with heavy machinery due to familiarity or routine. This desensitisation can lead to complacency and a lack of attention to potential risks.

Safe Behaviours: Before and during maintenance:

- Ensure machinery and hydraulic-supported items are fully de-energized.
- Maintain constant situational awareness, especially around heavy machinery and hazards like logs in grapples, to prevent accidents from unintended contact.
- Prioritise proper retrieval procedures for dropped objects to prevent unnecessary risks, avoiding interaction with machinery that could cause unexpected movements.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on-site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

