

## **Thunderbird TTY70 Hauler Incident Major failure as a result of the drag striking the cab.**



An experienced and qualified hauler operator was in the process of hauling in a drag consisting of three logs attached to a single strop running from an Acme MSP carriage. As the drag came up over the edge of the landing the drag swung like a pendulum and struck the cab of the Thunderbird TTY70 Hauler with force.

As a result of the cab structure absorbing a significant amount of force it was torn from the hauler and the operator has ended up on the floor of where the cab had been. The operator sustained relatively minor injuries.

### **Key contributing factors identified from the incident review were:**

- Operating the inhaul in the wrong gear (3<sup>rd</sup> gear was too fast).
- Extracting the drag with 8 meters of main-rope (this contributed to the force of the impact).
- Inattention: The hauler operator failed to monitor the position of the Acme carriage on the skyline due to allowing himself to be distracted by observing the main-rope winding onto the drum.
- Failure to excavate the hauler chute in front of the tower to enable friction control of drags as they come up and onto the landing.
- Inadequate guarding to protect the hauler operator cab from being struck by logs.

### **Recommended preventative actions include:**

- Circulate the full HFMNZ investigation report (redacted copy) to all regions / cable logging contractors.
  - Ensure all cab fasteners used to join a two piece cab are present and in good condition.
  - Findings from the contractors engineer used, that provide forward cab protection will be shared.
  - As best practice and during set up, hauler landings should be assessed for options to create friction control by way of excavating the hauler chute.
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