

# Safety and health alert

## 10/03 Employee amputates thumb using hired blocksplitter

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### Incident

An employee - operating a hired block splitter - amputated his thumb which was resting on top of a wooden block that was about to be split.

### Factors

- The employee failed to comply with the instruction and training he had been provided on the hazards associated with the operation of the blocksplitter.
- The hirer of the plant failed to provide all relevant safety information when the plant was hired out for use at a workplace.

### Recommendations

- The operation of plant must be undertaken in accordance with the instructions recommended by the manufacturer.
- Employers must ensure that employees who are required to operate plant in the workplace are provided with adequate instruction, training and supervision to ensure that they carry out their work without being exposed to hazards.
- Persons that supply plant for use at a workplace by way of hire or lease must ensure that all available safety and health information that has been provided by persons who designed or manufactured the plant is made available to persons who operate hired plant at a workplace. (Refer [Occupational Safety and Health Regulation 4.35\(2\)\(a\) of 1996](#).)
- That the safety information is translated into the English language.

### Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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