

HEALTH & SAFETY AWARENESS

CHAIN SHOT

What is a Chain Shot?

Chain shot is essentially a bullet (high-speed ejection) of cutting chain from the end of a broken chain in mechanised harvesting. Like a bullet, it poses a serious injury risk to machine operators and bystanders alike. Chain shot typically occurs at the 'drive-end' of the cutting system and far more often than you may think. Research indicates that 1 in 50 broken chains had parts missing that may have been the result of a chain shot event.



The 'key components' of a chain-shot plan?

- Establish a chain shot exclusion zone using marker cones or a goal-post system. Draw a plan of the exclusion zone and absolutely prohibit all people and machines from entry.
- Use signage to alert everyone to this hazard, the exclusion zone, and to stay clear.
- Install 19mm polycarbonate/acrylic as front screen protection. This is a minimum thickness and mandatory for all mechanised harvesters whether they process or fell.
- If any other machine must (even temporarily) operate within a 'chain shot' exclusion zone, then either plan for harvester to pause or ensure that machine is protected.
- Preventative maintenance – reduce the likelihood of the chain breaking in the first place.
- Install, inspect and maintain a purpose built chain catcher (deflector).



Pan Pac and it's contractors should have procedures in place to check that the major chain shot rules are being followed, such as audit check sheets which include:

- Machine requirements including chain guard and chain catcher, and windscreen type and condition.
- Evidence of chains being maintained to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Evidence of quality of chain being used.
- Observation of operator technique including not pointing the saw at people or other machines. Evidence of toolbox meetings and site inductions including discussions on chain shot risk.

**Observations have taken place of our contractors/workers not stopping at a chain shot sign, these signs are in place for a reason and to protect you from harm
Written Advice Notices will be issued to those not abiding by these rules.**