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## **New OH&S DVD targets 'zero harm'**

VicForests has developed a DVD emphasising the need to make safety the number one priority when undertaking harvesting and haulage operations.

Bill Paul, VicForests' Manager, Safety & Risk, said the DVD highlights the processes and systems which are in place to protect staff and contractors.

"VicForests has introduced a target of 'zero harm' for all contractors, visitors and staff members on our sites," Mr Paul said.

"This goal can only be achieved through a partnership between VicForests staff and our contractors to ensure safety risks are minimised.

"It's vital VicForests and our contractors work together to find the safest ways to set up coupes and manage operations.

"Safety is everyone's responsibility.

"The DVD shows contractors talking about their personal experiences and the impact of safety breaches on them and their businesses," he said.

Mr Paul said the ten minute DVD is available to VicForests' harvest and haulage contractors across the State.

"We are all responsible for taking the appropriate actions to make sure we are safe and continue to improve our health and safety practices," he said.

"Tree felling, loading, driving and maintenance of equipment are areas where injuries most frequently occur.

"Workplace injuries do not only impact those directly affected. There is also an emotional impact on their family and a significant financial impact on their business.

"Ensuring adherence to the correct safety procedures not only reduces the risk of injury but will actually save businesses money.

"We can achieve 'zero harm' by making safety our highest priority at all times.

"This includes ensuring contractors have up-to-date accreditation, correct signage is displayed on all coupes, communication channels are working well, comprehensive visitor inductions occur and designated safety zones are in place.

"VicForests wants everyone to go home safe at the end of their working day," Mr Paul said.

The DVD was launched during OH&S seminars for contractors in VicForests' Central Highlands region last month and it will be presented to contractors in East Gippsland during seminars in October.

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