

Chaser Caught in Yarder Drum While Spooling Mainline

Task: Spooling yarder mainline **Occupation:** Chaser **Release Date:** 2023

In August of 2020, a 45-year-old chaser died after he fell into a yarder drum. The chaser had worked for his employer, a logging company, for nearly a year and had worked in the logging industry for 28 years. On the day of the incident, he was working at a cable logging site. He was standing on top of a yarder deck assisting the yarder engineer to spool the mainline onto the yarder drum to make sure it spooled evenly. He was using a stick to guide the line. As he was doing this, the eye of the mainline hung up on something in the brush. The yarder engineer communicated to the chaser to watch out because there was tension in the mainline. The chaser nodded to the engineer to keep going. The yarder engineer then gave the yarder some more throttle to free up the mainline. When the mainline came loose, the slack in the line whipped toward the yarder. Before the engineer could apply the brakes to the drum, the mainline struck the chaser who was standing too close to the mainline and the mainline drum. The line pulled him into the yarder drum where he became entangled in the spool where he suffered fatal injuries.



Incident scene. The red circle in the photo indicates where the chaser fell into the mainline drum of the yarder.

Safety Requirements

- All employees must remain away from rigging that is stopped at a hang up, until the rigging is slacked to reduce the hazard. See [WAC 296-54-577\(6\)](#)

Recommended Safe Practices

- Ensure that workers:
 - are fully aware of their surroundings before entering a danger zone.
 - leave the danger zone when lines have become hung up.

