

General Workplace Inspectorate

Promoting Safety and Health in Agricultural Work

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT ALERT

9 February 2004



Scannells Multi-Purpose Bale Wrapper WPW – 200/2

Incident:

A baler operator received multiple facial fractures when his head was caught in the wrapping ring while he was manually pulling the film down to set up the first bale to be wrapped.

Circumstances:

The operator lifted the side guard on the bale wrapper to pull the wrap over the rollers so the applicator could wrap the first bale. As he was pulling the wrap over, the loader operator loaded a bale on the back of the wrapper activating the first cycle of the wrapper trapping the victim's head.

Investigation:

The OSH investigation found that:

- The side guards were not interlocked with the power source, which allowed the wrapper to operate with the guards up.
- The employee had been provided with poor information and training, contributing to the accident.

Recommendations:

The side guards need to be interlocked with the power source to prevent the wrapper operating if the guards are not closed. (All owners and operators should consult the manufacturer – B J Scarlett Ltd. Timaru.)

All operators should be provided with adequate information and training.