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# Organic waste grinder fatality

8 July 2022

A 25-year-old worker sustained fatal injuries after becoming trapped in an organic waste grinder. This is the second fatality in NSW in just over 18 months involving organic waste grinders.



*The grinder involved in the incident*

## Safety information

Implement 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with organic waste grinders.

You must make sure:

- machinery is always inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Modifications to the machinery must not be undertaken prior to consultation with the manufacturer, or if this is not possible, with a competent person
- all hazardous areas are adequately guarded against inadvertent access or unplanned release of energy. Guards must be securely in place when the machinery is in operation or there remains stored energy

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing and the findings are not yet confirmed. SafeWork NSW has commenced an investigation in response to the incident to determine its cause and circumstances. No conclusions should be drawn from the information in this publication about the cause of the incident or the culpability of any party.

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- workers are trained and competent to operate, and where appropriate clean or maintain the machinery in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- any machinery comes to a complete stop, and is isolated, before attempting to clean or clear any blockages
- raised loads supported by hydraulic pressure include a secondary support
- machinery is never left unattended while in operation.

### Related information

- [Guide to managing risks of plant and equipment for forestry operations](#) – Safe Work Australia
- [Managing the risks of plant in the workplace](#) – Code of Practice
- [Managing the work environment and facilities](#) – Code of Practice
- [Managing risks - remote and isolated work](#) – Safe Work Australia
- [Traumatic event management plan](#) - SafeWork NSW
- [Mental health at work](#) – NSW Government
- [Speak up save lives](#) – SafeWork NSW

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