

PROCESSOR



**Importer/  
Distributor**  
OESCO

**Machine Operator**  
Howard Boyden

**Log Handler**  
Doug Churchill

**Time**  
16 min. 44 sec.

**Cords Processed**  
1.5

**Cords/Hour**  
5.4

## Tajfun RCA 380

MACHINES CAME FROM around the world to participate in the Firewood Competition. Based in the eastern European country of Slovenia, Tajfun is probably best known in the forestry industry for its winches. After a successful competition in the 2007 Competition, the machine was back for another run this year. Machine operator Howard Boyden had no problem with the mud while setting up the RCA 380 firewood processor. The 2,700-pound machine was attached to the 3-point hitch of a 70-hp Goldoni Star tractor, which easily navigated through the mud to take its place with the other firewood processors on Friday afternoon.

The 380 had some unique features that caught the eye of a number of spectators. The folding log lift opened up scissors style, and incorporated both the infeed conveyer and a 1,000-pound rated log lifter. Next

task was to lower the log conveyer with the hand winch so that it would discharge the wood into the waiting wooden crate. After attaching the hydraulic lines to the main unit, Howard and his assistant Doug Churchill were ready for the starting horn.

The power from the PTO turns a hydraulic pump on the 380, as well as a gear box and belt drive that powers the chain saw cutoff. The model demonstrated had no provision to disengage the saw without turning off the PTO, but there was no need to, as Howard did an excellent job of keeping the machine on task. "We just had one time-out," he recalled, "and that was to remove some sawdust that had accumulated under the conveyer."

The hand-operated cutoff was a simple lever attached to the chain saw bar. Howard simply pulled it

## A PARTICIPANT IN



down to make each cut, and the wood fell down into the splitting chamber where a hydraulic ram split each piece into four with 15 tons of force and a 3-second cycle time. "The logs were pretty nice," he said. "They were capacity size, but we put 'em through."

Howard actually found the rainy, muddy conditions to his liking. "Some of the other machines had problems with the wet belts slipping, but even with the rain, we had no problems with the conveyers." Calling himself an "old man," without providing the specifics, Howard has worked for Oesco equipment since 1975, and has worked around the Tajfun equipment for about eight years. Doug Churchwell, who ran the log loader, has been with the company 2-1/2 years, and mostly works with the Tajfun products in sales and service.

Doug did his best to keep up with the splitter, loading logs onto the hydraulic lifting arms, then bringing a fresh one in place each time Howard was ready. "I couldn't quite keep up and lost a little time. We might have been able to run the machine a little faster," he admitted.

With a processing time of 16 minutes, 44 seconds, the pair

turned in a great time for the machine, and Howard was pleased with the outcome. "We were running that machine at the speed it was meant to run, but if I was 25, maybe I could have run it a little faster." He ran the machine fast enough to bury the firewood collection box under an avalanche of quarter split wood. By the time he had finished his logs, only the top edges of the box were visible. For his part, Doug said, "I love running the machine. It is a very sweet-running machine. We were trying to go for speed, but the machine just runs that way. As long as the guy keeps up with the saw, it keeps working." He also appreciated feedback from the spectators. "We had several come up afterwards and comment on how easy and natural it looked."

Both men were very complimentary about the way the Competition continued in spite of the weather. According to Doug, "Everybody pitched in and helped one other, and that really makes life better." Howard agreed. "My hat goes off to the folks who put that show together, especially after that storm. That was pretty miraculous." Then he noted, "We've got to get ourselves another tent!" ■



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