

INTERFOR

2006 SAFETY ALERT # 01

Your 'Close Call' Can Prevent Another Fatality

A 'Close Call' is an incident that had *potential* to cause Serious Injury. The difference between a 'Close Call' and a Fatality can be a matter of only inches or even a split-second.

- A log that escaped the control of a Loader Operator in the landing ran away downhill and barely missed a Hooktender working below the machine on the bottom side.
- While tightening up guylines, a Grapple Yarder was pulled onto its face with the haulback still engaged.
- A Second Loader was stamping a load while standing on a trailer tire, when the Truck Driver started driving away.
- At a blind spot on a non-traveled mainline, a head-on collision occurred between two pick-ups.
- A D7 Cat started to roll while the Operator was off the machine, and the Operator attempted to jump on to apply the brakes, but was thrown off.
- The outer portion of road sub-grade failed, causing an EX 400 Excavator to slide downhill 35 meters before stopping.

All of these incidents occurred last year in Interfor-affiliated operations. All occurred because of a breakdown in safe work procedures, or because of a preventable mechanical failure. Yet, no one suffered a serious injury, so one might say that these 'Close Call' incidents are not noteworthy—EXCEPT for the example that, one week after the initial Excavator 'close call', during road construction in another site, the road prism gave out for exactly the same reasons resulting in the Hoe Operator suffering life impairment injuries.

If employees report their 'Close Calls', it is a REMINDER to themselves and a LEARNING opportunity for OTHERS about the importance of specific operating and maintenance procedures that they may take for granted. There is no 'harm' with a 'Close Call' report, but there is a valuable WARNING for all of us. Your 'Close Call' report becomes an anonymous Incident Notice that can be used at Tailgate Meetings throughout other operations.

Supervisors and Co-Workers take note. SUPPORT your fellow employees in reporting and investigating TO LEARN from 'Close Calls'. The life you save may just be your own.

Please make sure this ALERT is reviewed, signed-off with all target employees, and posted. [Managers, Supervisors, Engineers and All Crew Personnel].

**Interfor Coastal Woodlands
Safety Task Group**

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