SAFETY ALERT

Tow Chain Breaks while Pulling a Loaded Logging Truck

Date: June 14, 2019  Location: Kootenay Woodlands, BC Interior

Incident Type: Damage/Close Call  Job Position: Cat Operator, Log Truck Driver

Summary:
- A Cat was towing a loaded logging truck through a muddy section of landing to the main haul road.
- During the tow, the chain snapped, whipping back at the truck with force.
- The windshield was broken. No injury to driver. All workers were in the clear.

Key Learnings and Recommendations:
- Safe work procedures must be developed and followed for towing trucks.
- Complete a risk assessment which considers: communication plan, workers being in-the-clear, length of pull, choice of equipment used to pull, connections, inspection of line and rigging, and road obstacles (e.g., rock, out-sloped roads, corners).
- Tow chain or cable must be inspected and deemed adequate strength for the estimated breaking force and weight presented in the tow operation.
- Consider postponing hauling until road conditions have improved.

For more information on this alert, please contact:
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