



BC **Forest Safety** Council
Unsafe is Unacceptable

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Log trailer bolster bolts: Inspect regularly for this hidden hazard

Location: All areas of B.C.

Date of Incident of Note: October 18, 2011

Details of Incident: A log truck driver noticed a broken bolster bolt while setting up for loading. He reported the problem to the site supervisor. Inspection of the bolt showed it had been partially broken for awhile. They noted that there had been a recent increase in the number of broken bolster and scale pad bolts.

These bolts form the link between the load and the truck and are subject to damage especially from excessive sideways force and rough handling during unloading. Excessive rocking caused by poorly built roads can also contribute to the damage.

Results of a failure of this crucial link are likely to be very serious!

Partially broken bolts are hard to notice due to their location and because of mud, snow or other material that can hide the part from easy viewing.



Note the location of the replaced bolster bolt (red circle). These bolts should be inspected regularly by cleaning the area to allow a clear view.

Recommendations:

- Wheel loader operators must be aware of the need to avoid excessive sideways strain on loads and/or rough handling during unloading.
- Contractors should consider changing these bolts annually (for example, during breakup or other curtailed operations)

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