

Safety Alert of THE MONTH

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS IN BC'S FOREST INDUSTRY

January 2019

Metal Objects (and rocks) Left in Logs Create a Hazard to Equipment and Workers

Recent reports indicate several discoveries of hazardous metal hardware found in logs to be scaled and milled. In most situations, the metal was embedded in logs that were originally used for bridges and/or wooden culverts. In another instance, the metal was from remote camp booms.

Metal objects left in logs are as serious as embedded rocks. All metal (and rocks) must be removed prior to loading of logs onto a truck or entry to head end of sawmill.

Major safety issues with embedded metal or rocks include:

- Dry Land sort bucking/processing hazards that could injure or kill a worker
- Milling or Chipping facility hazards and potential saw damage and worker injury
- Staples/metal in wheel loader tires.



Take the Necessary Action!

If the decision is made to load out the logs from an old bridge or wooden culvert, all the hardware must be removed prior to loading AND any holes should be bucked off the log. These holes can hold rocks and debris.



To ensure all foreign material is removed, the logs will need to be rotated and closely viewed by a ground worker.

It is not acceptable for a loader operator to view from the cab.

If uncertain if a log has embedded metal, either use a metal detector to confirm or do not load the log.



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Learnings & Suggestions:

(From Western Forest Products safety alert originally posted on 2011-12-14)

- **Engineering:** Bridge maintenance plans should have a clear expectation and instructions for detecting and dealing with metal contaminated (spikes, staples, wire) wood.
- **Bridge / Road Crews:** Any wood that cannot be confirmed to be free of metal hazards must be destroyed or salvaged by appropriate end users.
- **Loading Personnel / Sort / Scalers:** In the event that bridge or other used wood is loaded out, the logs must be thoroughly re-inspected prior to loading. All used or old bridge wood that is loaded should be clearly marked to make it easily identifiable to the sort crew for another close inspection at the sort.
- **Boom Crews (logging & sawmilling); Cut-off Saw and Debarker Operators:** As the last sets of eyes to view wood before it hits a band saw, remain vigilant in your efforts to identify contaminants in wood and to stop the process prior to a log going through a saw.
- **Salvage Crews:** If contaminated logs are watered, ensure they are clearly marked as contaminated logs and securely contained to prevent accidental mixing with sawmill-bound wood during adverse weather events.



Photos (this page courtesy Western Forest Products):

Above Left: Metal found in saw log and broken teeth.

Middle: Band saw with sheared teeth following impact.

Right: Stain holes from metal in log

