

Safety Alert OF THE MONTH

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

January 2018

Equipment Rollovers

The following rollover incidents have been reported to WorkSafeBC within the last month:

- An operator was using a log loader to move a log when the outside of the road failed, causing the machine to roll down a steep bank. The operator was ejected part-way down and the machine came to rest in a gully 200 feet from the road. The operator suffered multiple injuries.
- A log loader was forwarding wood to a roadside. The operator tried to pull a stump out of the ground with the grapple. The grapple slipped off the stump, causing the log loader to roll over. The operator was wearing a seat belt and was not injured.
- A worker was repositioning a non-tethered feller-buncher machine on a 52 percent slope. The machine slid 15 feet and flipped onto its side. A stump breached the guarding and struck the worker. The worker was taken to hospital by the on-site emergency transport vehicle (ETV). The operator suffered fractured ribs and soft tissue injuries.
- A worker operating an excavator was placing rip rap (large rocks) on the bottom side of a resource road. The excavator became unstable and slid about 150 feet down the hill, rolling over twice. It came to rest upside down beside a creek. The operator, who was wearing a seat belt, climbed to the road and was transported to hospital. The worker received a lacerated head from the rollover.

Review the following information to help reduce the occurrence and severity of these types of rollover incidents:

- Two of the above incidents would have been much worse, but the operators were wearing seatbelts which kept them safely in the cab.
- Proper planning is essential for steep ground operations. Complete a risk assessment of the area and develop site specific procedures to keep equipment stable and safe.
- Exposed rock has been reported as a leading cause of rollovers. When walking the site, keep watch for exposed rock and shallow soils that can cause a loss of traction.
- Rollovers near water can be particularly hazardous. Ditch water or streams can be deep enough to create drowning hazards.
- Watch out for signs of soil instability and potential landslides: saturated soils over bedrock, old slumps and jack-strawed trees.



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Resources:

1) Seatbelt Safety Video from Caterpillar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdMTxG5yDE0>

2) Operator Dies When Shovel Rolls Downhill

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety/research/face/files/shoveloperatordieswhenshovelrollsdownhill.pdf>



3) Steep Slope Logging Resource Package

https://www.bcforestsafe.org/steep_slope.html

4) Road Construction Initiated Slides Operator Training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYbnMZlcqmU>

