

SAFETY ALERT

Forestry Industry: Logging

Worker: Buckerman

Location: BC Southern Interior

December, 2006

Buckerman Injured While Working Near Log Deck

A buckerman was injured while bucking down slope from manufactured logs that were being decked on the high side of a small road right-of-way landing. An ice covered hemlock log that was over 49' in length slid off the log deck while the loader operator was positioning it in the deck.

The buckerman saw the log approaching in his direction, so he ran and fell, twisting his knee. The loader operator grabbed the moving hemlock log with the grapple of his loader. This action stopped the log from sliding toward the buckerman, avoiding further injury to him.

The buckerman received medical treatment at the hospital in Nakusp, where it was determined that he had slightly torn ligaments in his right knee. There was no loss of time due to the injury.

Safe Work Practices:

- Loader operators must ensure all workers are in the clear before decking logs / trees.
- Avoid constructing / utilizing log decks located on the high side of confined landings. Logs should be decked on the low side of confined landings.
- Logs should be decked at a height that will not compromise the stability of the logs being decked. Plan to have logs loaded and hauled by logging trucks before the decked logs' height becomes a safety concern.
- Proceed with increased caution when handling ice covered logs.

This Safety Alert is provided compliments of H.A. Friedenberger Contracting Ltd., Nakusp, BC

Hazard Alert – Lost Time

Provided by Western Forest Products

Date of Incident: December, 2006

Experience: 6 ½ Years

Incident : **Worker was injured while bucking a windfall to clear a road**

Description:

In December 2006, a grader was clearing snow and had pushed through a group of two windfall trees. The tops were broken off, and the trees were swept into the ditchline creating tension in the logs. Approximately four hours later a worker passed by the windfalls that the grader pushed / cleared off the road. The trees were mainly in the ditchline, but crowding the roadway. The worker decided to buck the trees further back off the roadway. The worker bucked the first tree, a 9” diameter fir log approx 38 feet long without incident. While bucking the second log, a 5.5” fir approx 48 feet long it broke under tension and swung back, hitting him on his left leg just below the knee. The worker was sent to the hospital where it was later assessed that he had a ligament tear in his left knee.



Upset Conditions:

1. A grader pushed two small windfalls off the roadway to clear the road, creating tension in the logs.
2. Later the same day, a worker decided to buck the windfall logs further off the roadway and did not recognize the tension in the logs.

Learning and Suggestions:

1. Be aware of windfall logs that may be under tension as a result of graders or other equipment trying to push, or remove them from the roadway.
2. If a grader or other machine operator creates a hazard by pushing logs / trees off a road and can not remove the hazard they should tie a “danger tree” ribbon to the hazard and communicate the hazard and its location to their supervisor.
3. Prior to bucking any tree or windfall, ensure proper time is taken to properly assess the tree for any hazards that may exist, such as tension in a log.



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Safety Hazard Alert

Safety Alert Type:

Log Hauling

Date of Incident: 2006-12-29

Company Name: Blackwater Construction

Details of Incident:

On December 29, 2006 the Molly on a logging truck broke while trailer was being unloaded.

This caused the trailer to fall, damaging a stake and 2 air bags.

This happened because the Molly had slipped within the clamps attached to the trailer, causing the loader to be lifting on an unprotected area. This resulted in the cable being cut through.

This could have happened while driver was loading trailer.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

One action is to add block protection all the way around Molly and replace blocks when worn.

The other action is to bring to the attention of all drivers, the necessity of complete equipment inspections prior to, during, and after work activities.

Ensure the Molly and lifting blocks are centered for lifting.

If your log states your equipment is in good repair, it needs to have been inspected, not taken for granted. Especially areas we might not inspect often enough. (Molly's, bunks, 5th wheels, suspension, etc.)

Be safe; ensure your equipment is in prime operational condition.

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CLOSE CALL

Safety Alert Type:

Crew Transport

Location: TimberWest Oyster River Div. Cutblock WL155

Date of Incident: 2006-12-05

Company Name: BENDICKSON CONTRACTORS LTD.

Details of Incident:

This incident occurred at the end of a shift, in the dark, with rain and misty conditions. Worker was leaning in to the rear seat of a crew cab with the rear driver side door open. A second worker was backing another vehicle past to get to a turnout when the rear of his vehicle brushed the worker standing on the ground and struck the rear door. There was no injury to the worker but the vehicle damage to both driver's side doors was significant. The difference of a few centimeters could have resulted in serious injury.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

Always park vehicles in a position to leave the worksite with minimal maneuvering required. Industry Recognized Practice is to park with the vehicle facing the direction of the exit to remove the necessity for backing and maneuvering when in an emergency or visibility may be compromised.

More Information Contact Details:

Lorne Bendickson 250-830-1019 or email lornebendickson@benlog.ca

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Hazard Communication - BETWEEN PHASES

Safety Alert Type:

Worksites

Date of Incident: 2006-06-05

Company Name: Interfor Coastal Woolands

Details of Incident:

Many of the hazards in logging are 'Man-Made': hang-ups, loose rocks or stumps, improper placement of right-of-way logs, unstable cut banks, etc. Initially, these 'man-made' hazards should be prevented, or if need be, controlled as much as possible. However, if these hazards remain after the initial phase, their existence must be communicated to the next phase(s) of logging.

Upon completion of any phase of logging, an INSPECTION and DOCUMENTATION of hazards created in the course of the phase is required. As well as natural hazards left behind (e.g. snags), any identified ongoing 'man-made' hazards must be communicated via the attached written HAZARD REPORT. (This Hazard Report form is also available in the back-end of the Safety Alert/Bulletin Binder provided to all Prime Contractors.)

If the initial logging or road construction phase involves employees or a Sub-Contractor hired by the Prime Contractor, it is the responsibility of the Prime Contractor to ensure this post-phase Hazard Assessment is completed and COMMUNICATED to next phase(s). If the initial phase of work is completed by a Contractor hired by the Licensee, it is the responsibility of Interfor staff to arrange for any mitigation of the hazards, and/or their communication as part of the PRE-WORKS to the Contractor Representative responsible for the next phase of work in this cut-block or road-heading.

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SAFETY MEMO

To: Field Personnel Staff
Forestry & Engineering Contractors

Date: May 2006

CC: Gerry Young

From: Nanaimo Field Health
& Safety Committee

Safety Alert

Two TimberWest Field Personnel were walking a cut block at the end of a newly constructed spur. Part way through their visit the wind started to gust, and blew down a limb approx. 2.5cm x 3 meters which struck one of them on the left side of his hard hat. The man appeared slightly dazed, but recovered in a few minutes.

Recommendations:

- Always be aware of the possibility of over head hazards
- Always wear proper head protection
- Consider alternate work options/areas when wind conditions are unfavorable



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Wear Your Personal Protective Equipment

Safety Alert Type:

Equipment

Date of Incident: 2005-06-30

Company Name: Interfor Coastal Woolands

Details of Incident:

There was an incident this year where a worker was sitting on a stump taking a break, apparently out of the line-of-fire. Unexpectedly, the 6-foot top portion of a danger tree came down from behind him and struck the worker. The worker suffered compression fracture of vertebrae in his back and will make a full recovery. However, if he hadn't been wearing his HARD HAT, it would have been a different story.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

Personal Protective Equipment needs to be worn at all times in our hazardous work environment. Even when we do our best to eliminate or control hazards, there are still remote but severe potential consequences from nature doing the unexpected. Worse yet, there is always the possibility of a breakdown in procedures.

SAFETY GLASSES or face shields are mandatory for workers in the shop or dry land sort, to protect against metal or wood debris flying in an unexpected but tragic direction—it has happened. The same applies to forestry & engineering crews when blazing trail in the woods, or for rigging and road crew workers pounding metal—even for a second—that's all it has taken to lose an eye. When anyone is exposed to these worksite hazards, wear your PPE at all times, even during lunch and a break. Danger strikes when we least expect it, and your PPE is the last line of defence!

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