BC **Forest Safety** Council

Mechanical Harvesting

Safety Alert Type:
Mechanical Harvesting

Location: Southern Interior

Date of Incident: 2008-01-01
Company Name: H.A. Friedenberger Contracting Ltd.

Details of Incident:

A cable yarder work site was located along the side of a road (narrow operation due to steep slopes on both sides of the road), and processed wood (hand bucked) was being decked along both sides of the road (decks parallel to the road). The Loader Operator began decking logs onto a new bunk-log deck that was situated beside an existing shortlog deck (both of these decks were located on upper side of road).

The company safety coordinator noticed that some of the logs being placed on the bunk-log deck were intertwined with logs contained in the short-log deck. The safety coordinator intervened - explaining the situation to the loader operator and asking the loader operator to ensure the logs contained in each deck were not intertwined (ensure each deck is separated by a distance of at least one meter). The loader operator complied by moving the logs in the bunklog deck so that all the logs in the deck were separated from the short-log deck.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

Adjacent log decks must be separate from each other to ensure that logs from each deck are not intertwined. When logs are intertwined, there is a potential for logs that are being placed in the one deck (in this case – the bunk-log deck) to jar the logs contained in the other deck (in this case – the short-log deck). A chain reaction could cause logs to topple off the deck (short-log deck) uncontrollably and possibly strike any person who may be walking or working (usually the buckerman) below the deck (in this case – the short-log deck).

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