Incident Summary

- An employee had to leave the road and drive into a ditch to avoid an on-coming logging truck.
- The pickup could not be driven out on its own so arrangements were made for it to be pulled out by the next loaded logging truck that passed by.
- The employee made the decision to be in the pickup, without securing a seatbelt, to assist with steering while being pulled out; the pickup eventually rolled over onto its roof with driver inside as it slid along the ditch.
- During the extraction the tow rope broke and came close to hitting the person assisting with the extraction.

Potential Hazards

- Encountering an unexpected vehicle.
- Occupying a vehicle that is not on a stable surface.
- Occupying a moving vehicle without having the seatbelt secured.
- Using a tow rope in disrepair and without the proper precautionary measures.

Preventative Actions

- Never occupy a vehicle that is not on a stable surface & always wear a seatbelt when it’s in motion.
- Always know your limitations and when a tow truck might be required to safely tow a vehicle.
- Also, incorporate towing into the “Resource Road Driver” training program, emphasizing:
  - How to recognize hazard & risk to avoid any injury or damage before towing.
  - Safe use of tow ropes:
    - Inspection for visible defects.
    - Always stay clear of “line of fire”.
    - Always place a jacket on the rope to prevent “kickback”.
    - Always lift hood or dry box lid to shield any occupants.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

...and it starts with the person you see in the mirror.