BC **Forest Safety**

Crew Talk

Loose Objects Can Put You In the Bight! Date: _____

Description :

Loose objects in the cab of a vehicle or piece of equipment can be extremely dangerous. Those unsecured objects become deadly projectiles when a vehicle rolls over, or comes to a sudden stop.

It's impossible to predict when an incident will occur, so you should prepare for any situation. Secure all loose items so that a rollover, or minor crash, does not become a fatal accident.

Contributing Factors:

A 2010 coroner's inquest into a skidder rollover fatality identified a loose fire extinguisher as a possible factor in the operator's death. In a recent incident, loose equipment in the cargo area of a crew transport vehicle involved in an incident slid forward, injuring workers. Last year a woman was killed by a laptop that flew from the back seat of her car into the back of her head during a sudden stop. Even the steel cup from a Thermos could be deadly if you were holding it to your mouth at the exact moment the airbag on your pickup activated during an impact.

Unsecured items such as toolboxes, lunch kits, stainless steel thermos, cell phones, fire extinguishers and laptops can all injure drivers and passengers. Just tossing stuff into the cab may be convenient, but not at all safe. Any object that is not firmly secured in the vehicle will travel or fly around in an accident and the force of being hit by an unsecured object can be enough to kill.

And don't forget about the pickup box. On any landing, you can see pickups carrying everything from spare tires and tire chains to various parts, tools, pails of lubricant, shovels, and chainsaws: all unsecured. Remember that smaller loose items can travel forward through the headache rack and back window, and potentially strike the driver or passengers.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

It's a WorkSafeBC regulation that all items and loads be secured, whether in- or outside the cab.

If you can't secure it, don't haul it around. Webbed cargo nets work well to secure objects in the back seat of a pickup. If you are putting stuff into the box of a pickup, tie it down.

In any mobile equipment secure cab items so that they will not fly around during a rollover.

Discussions / Follow-up Actions:

Before starting your work day, or beginning your drive to work, take note of what action you can take to keep yourself safe in an accident. Are all objects stored in a secure manner? Would anything travel if you were to rollover? Are you wearing your seat belt? After all, your seat belt is the best way of keeping yourself from traveling in an accident.

Names of of Attendees:		