



TAG

# SAFETY ALERT

## Loader Assist Injury

### Description of the Event:

A log truck driver was injured when he was struck by the loader grapple. Medical treatment was required.

The loader was positioned on the off-side of the loaded trailer. Four of the wrappers had been placed using a process that included the loader operator extending the grapple and putting it down on the driver's side of the truck across the trailer reach (between the truck and trailer) where the driver would be visible to the loader operator. The driver would then place the wrappers in the grapple and the loader operator would place the wrappers on the bundle. The driver had moved to a location approximately 3m from the load and was bent over picking up the last wrapper while the loader operator was placing the fifth wrapper. After the loader had placed the wrapper, he extended the boom and put the grapple down away from the load on the offside to wait for the driver to move to the location to set the wrappers in the grapple. The operator could see approximately 70% of the grapple when he put the boom down.

As the loader operator put the grapple down, the driver was struck by the grapple. The driver was bent over at the time, and not visible to the loader operator. The force knocked the driver's hard hat off and temporarily pinned him to the ground. The driver was able to get himself out from under the grapple. As the driver moved into the opening, the loader operator saw that he was hunched over, and the driver waved for him to come down.

The driver was taken to the hospital to have his injuries assessed. He received six stitches to his face and was directed by the physician to monitor his back pain for signs of any additional injury (not x-rayed).

### Contributing Factors:

- Inadequate training for implementing loader assist
- Energized mobile equipment in proximity to workers without appropriate procedures

### Suggested Actions:

- Review loader assist safe work procedures (company uses TAG best practices) and update to include specifics related to location of the worker and loader when using loader assist.
- Provide loader assist training to all log truck drivers and loader operators to ensure they understand the intended process – most importantly the driver must stay on the same side of the load as the loader and always in full visibility of the loader operator.



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