



## Phase Two of the Log Load Securement Project Completed

The motion of throwing and securing log load wrappers can cause significant stress on the shoulders of log truck drivers and overexertion-related musculoskeletal injuries are quite common. Shoulder injuries can have a significant impact on drivers including absence from work, increased financial costs and possible disability. **Sections 4.46 to 4.53 of BC’s Occupational Health and Safety Regulations** outlines the requirements for taking steps to prevent musculoskeletal injuries in the workplace. FPIInnovations, in collaboration with the Load Securement Working Group (a subcommittee of the Log Truck Technical Advisory Committee), conducted an informational review (Shetty 2021) and surveyed employers to get ideas on how to reduce or eliminate the risk of injury associated with log load securement. These activities led to the identification of both simple and more complex solutions to be investigated in phase two of the log load securement project in order to determine their potential for reducing or eliminating injuries related to throwing wrappers while meeting operational requirements of log hauling operations in BC.

The objectives of the project were:

- To evaluate alternative load securement tools and practices to quantify benefits related to safety.
- To identify operational considerations, procedures, and costs, and
- To develop key information and resources related to operational implementation.

The tools and methods evaluated included:

- Improved/alternative throwing methods
- Light weight wrappers
- Tiedowns
- Throw assist tools
- Elevated Platforms, and
- Loader Assist Tools



Traditional log wrapper throws produce a high risk of MSI and were used as a baseline for the study. The top six alternative methods and tools were ranked based on Movement Risk Score reduction and ease of use.

### Ranking of alternative methods & tools

Rank	Tools	MRS reduction (Compared to baseline)	Ease of use
1	Platform underhand throw	71-76%	Excellent
2	JB Slinger	67%	Excellent
3	Jo’s easy wrap	76%	Good
4	RotatorSaver	57 - 69%	Good
5	Improved throwing method	50%	Excellent
6	Light weight wrappers	36-67%	Good

The results of the log load securement study revealed a number of alternative tools and methods when compared to the traditional load securement methods that can be used to help lower MSI risks specifically for throwing wrappers. Read more about the results of the Log Load Securement Project report, by visiting the [FPIInnovations website](#). 🌲



## Making Safety Part of Good Community Relationships

One of the best features of BC woodlots and community forest areas is their ability to give the public opportunities to see and interact with local small-scale forest management. Indeed, the stated purposes of most such tenures include contributing to the achievement of a range of objectives, values and priorities held by the community, and flowing to the people who live there.

What that looks like *on-the-ground* depends on the tenure, the licence holder and the community. The list can be lengthy: firewood cutting, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, access to fishing, hunting and gathering opportunities, and more. Most often, those activities occur right on the licence area. But sometimes, building and maintaining good relationships with neighbours includes activities that occur outside the licence area.

In all cases, safety is a top priority that licence holders should keep in mind. When those activities occur on the tenure area, the licence holder has, at a minimum, safety accountabilities as the site owner. Even when legal duties are ambiguous, upholding community interests includes the social responsibility to do what you can to minimize the risk of anyone getting hurt.

Consider firewood cutting. Given the number of firewood cutters you see on your licence area and the wide variety of *skills* and approaches they have, you might be thinking that it is only a matter of time before something bad happens. It's probably impossible to stop firewood cutters from going into your tenure area, so that's not a viable way of preventing those incidents. You probably don't want to try to "police" them, partially because doing so incurs other legal duties. But the due diligence voice in your head still tells you that there's something you can do to reduce the likelihood of anyone getting hurt.

Maybe you can implement a *permit* process that obliges the holder to have proper gear and training. Or maybe in the long run, it's cheaper, easier and safer to just buck up a bunch of firewood and deliver it to a central location. That way, you are the only one handling a chain saw or processor, you'll save road maintenance dollars and reduce fire risks. Plus, your house log deck remains intact.

Perhaps you want to give back to your community by helping a local teen gain exposure to career opportunities in forestry. Whether it's building trails, planting seedlings or running a piece of equipment, even if they are not your employee, you don't want that teen to be hurt before they start their career. So, you take the time to explain and show them how its done - properly. You tell them about hazards they might encounter, and how to avoid or overcome them. When you think they're ready, you have them give it a try. Before you turn them loose, both of you are confident they can do the job without risk of incident. And even though you might not technically be their *supervisor* you stick around and watch them, just in case.

Whether its legally hard-wired safety responsibilities, a matter of due diligence or just your own desire to make sure none of your neighbours suffers an injury, building and maintaining good community relationships includes proactively thinking about what could possibly go wrong, considering the spectrum of ways to reduce risks and choosing actions that lead to safe outcomes.

### Additional resources

[Know Your Responsibilities - Owner](#)

[Know Your Responsibilities - Board of Directors](#)

[Know Your Responsibilities - Summary](#) 🗺️

# Electronic Logging Devices Are Now in Effect

BC's regulations on electronic logging devices (ELDs) for commercial vehicle operators kicked in August 1, 2023.

In February 2023, BC announced that ELDs would be a regulated safety tool to help increase safety and reduce the risks associated with driver fatigue. BC carriers were given six months to install the devices throughout their fleets and complete driver and dispatcher training.

The provincial shift followed [federal ELD regulations](#), which Transport Canada established for the inter-provincial trucking sector in 2021. Enforcement of those regulations began in January 2023.

ELDs automatically track drivers' time behind the wheel such as driving time, rest periods, and duty status and will replace the manual recording process. They will help reduce the likelihood of driving while tired and help ensure drivers comply with the allowable hours of service (HOS) and regulated daily driving time. ELDs also improve driver hour management and help the trucking industry by reducing paperwork and associated costs.

Some of the benefits of ELD's include:

- **Enhanced Accuracy:** ELDs provide precise and reliable data, eliminating errors and inaccuracies commonly associated with paper logbooks. This promotes transparency and eliminates potential violations or penalties resulting from faulty record-keeping.
- **Automated Compliance:** ELDs streamline the recording and tracking of drivers' HOS, simplifying compliance with federal and



provincial regulations. This reduces administrative burdens and minimizes the likelihood of human errors.

- **Improved Efficiency:** ELDs offer various features that simplify fleet management processes. They can track vehicle location, monitor engine diagnostics, and facilitate real-time communication between drivers and dispatchers. These capabilities optimize routing, improve operational efficiency, and enhance customer service.
- **Safety Benefits:** By accurately monitoring drivers' HOS, ELDs contribute to the prevention of fatigue-related accidents. They ensure that drivers obtain sufficient rest and comply with regulations designed to combat drowsy driving.

## Requirements for Compliance:

To adhere to the BC provincial ELD mandate, ELDs must be certified and listed on the CVSE's approved devices list. Carriers must verify their ELD's compliance with the necessary technical specifications. Visit Transport Canada's website for a list of [approved ELD devices](#). 🚚