



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Trailer Hoist Failure: High Risk Close Call

Date: September 2023

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident: A log truck driver was reloading his trailer with the trailer hoist. When the trailer was at the appropriate height the driver returned to the truck to back under it. While walking to the truck, the hoist cable suddenly failed, dropping the suspended trailer to the ground and causing significant damage to it. No personal injuries were sustained in this incident.

Inspection determined that the cable did not break. The failure occurred when the cable pulled through its connection point. The reason for this is undetermined.

The cable had been replaced less than 30 days earlier by a qualified contractor. No incidents were since reported that would affect the integrity of the hoist. The hoist is inspected at the end of each day that the scales are operating, no issues were noted on the last inspection.

Access to the hoist is not limited over the weekends, increasing the risk of unreported incidents. All Authorized users are trained in proper operation of the trailer hoist.

Learnings:

- Reminder of why drivers must remain outside the concrete area while operating the trailer hoist at any time. In this incident, if the driver was close to the trailer when it fell it could lead to serious injury or fatality.
- Having the trailer hoist available outside of production hours creates a significant risk if damage or potential damage incidents go unreported.
- The video surveillance available was inadequate to assist in the incident investigation and would have been valuable to understand the nature of the failure.



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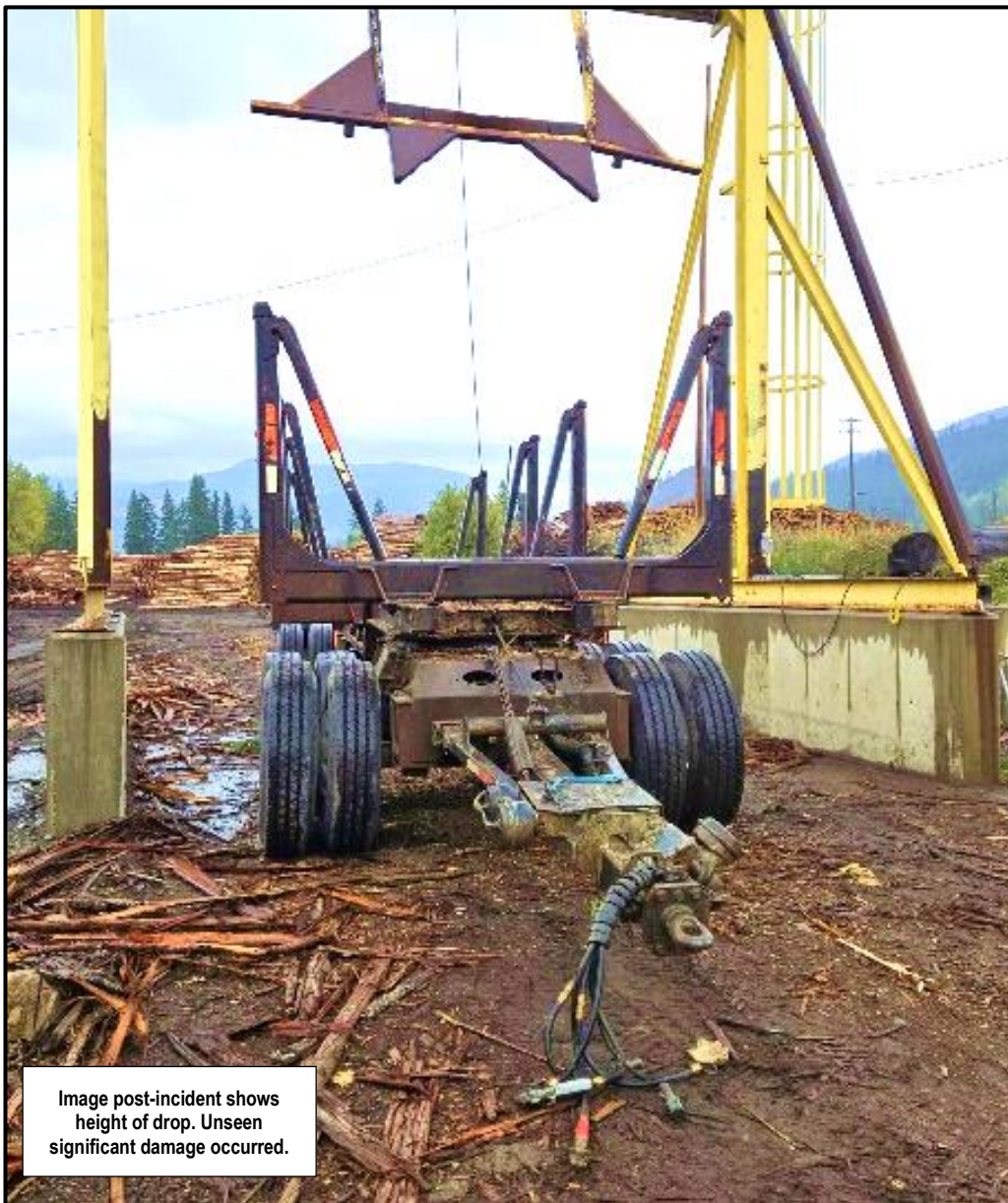
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Suggestions:

- Use this incident as an example when training new drivers in the use of the trailer hoist to illustrate the importance of remaining out of the danger zone.
- Thoroughly check the connection point during regular inspections.
- Install a lower limit switch as a best practice in addition to the upper limit switch already in place.
- Improve video surveillance to better monitor the hoist area.



Submitted by: Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd. Barriere, BC



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