



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Log vandalized with railway spikes reaches sawmill

Date: March 24, 2025

Location: Columbia/Shuswap

INCIDENT SUMMARY

A debarked log was entering a sawmill when an operator noticed it was spiked. Fortunately, the operator had only sawn the non-spiked side. In total the log contained 8 railway spikes.

This log had been handled multiple times before entering the sawmill and was debarked prior to the hazard being initially identified by a sawmill worker.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Metal in logs entering a manufacturing facility has the potential to harm people and cause significant damage to equipment.

LEARNING / SUGGESTIONS

Communicate the potential hazard to all workers involved in the process from development to manufacturing so that contaminated logs can be prevented from entering a production facility.

Workers that should be aware of the potential for metal and other contaminants are field crews, harvesting and loader operators, log truck drivers, scale operators and scalers, log yard or sort yard operators and production facility primary breakdown operators.

If metal or another contaminant is discovered, the hazard must be removed immediately and its presence communicated to everyone involved in the process.

(A similar incident occurred in March 2022 and was reported by Mosaic Forest Management - see last page).



BC Forest Safety

Unit 8C - 2220 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9S 1H9
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafe.org



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RAILWAY SPIKES IN LOG:



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MOSAIC FOREST MANAGEMENT SAFETY ALERT (from 2022):

<h2><i>SAFETY ALERT</i></h2>	 <p>Timberland Manager for  </p>
<p>SUBJECT: Log/Load Contamination</p> <p>DATE: March 1, 2022</p>	<h3>Incident Summary</h3> <p>A log with metal contamination was consumed in a sawmill, resulting in the saw striking the metal. This caused significant saw damage, mill downtime and upset conditions associated with the strike.</p>
<h3>Potential Hazards</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Flying debris associated with the saw striking contaminates- Upset conditions resulting from equipment damage and downtime associated with saw strike	<h3>Photo</h3> 
<h3>Preventative Actions</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify potentially contaminated logs/stands in the planning process so an appropriate plan to mitigate contamination can be made before harvest occurs.- Ground crew in the field, sort yards and facilities to recognize the potential severity of contaminated loads/logs and diligently identify hazards so they can be removed. Use metal detectors to help identify hazards when warranted.- When contaminants are found, follow the Contaminated Load Reporting and Follow-up Procedures to prevent further occurrences.	

