

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

**Ask Yourself**  
*"Could it happen here?"*

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

### **Tethered Logging Incident**

During a tethered logging operation on steep slope terrain (45-65%), the tether system on a buncher failed.

When the tension broke, the buncher slid and then rolled over. Fortunately, the operator was not seriously injured.

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- **Prioritize Safety:** Stop work immediately if there are any safety concerns or hazards.
- **Conduct Daily Inspections and Maintenance:** Check all tethered components frequently to ensure they are in good working condition.
- **Rigging Components:** Make sure working load limits are adequate for expected loads and never exceed them.
- **Anchor Points:** Ensure anchor points are secure, stable and capable of maintaining machine stability during operations.
- **Develop a Steep Slope Harvest Plan:** Create a detailed plan for each project that includes a steep slope risk assessment as well as weather and ground conditions.
- **Monitor Ground and Weather Conditions:** Ensure conditions can support tethered logging operations. Consider loose snow, rock or mud, and soil type. Test the traction of the tethered machine without full rope tension.
- **Cab Protection and Escape:** Equip mobile equipment with rollover protection structures (ROPS) and window guards. Cabs should also have a clearly marked, alternative means of escape that is accessible, safe, easy to open and meets provincial OHS requirements.
- **Emergency Response Measures:** Conduct regular safety drills to ensure all workers know emergency procedures and can act quickly in case of an incident. Keep emergency equipment, such as first aid kits and fire extinguishers, readily accessible and ensure all workers know how to use them.



## MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Tethered logging operations on steep slopes present unique safety hazards that demand careful planning and execution.

Daily inspections, proper training and strict adherence to safety protocols are essential to creating and maintaining a safe work environment.

