Hazard Awareness Campaign



TAG

Trucking and Harvesting Advisory Group

Energy-Based Hazards – Log Decks

Log decks are one of the highest risk areas on a logging site with stored energy potential hazards that can lead to serious incidents. Proper planning, continued maintenance and careful placement of logs and equipment can enhance the safety of the site. Log deck incidents often result in equipment damage and in some cases, serious injuries or fatalities.

Can you spot the gravity and motion energy-based hazards in the below photo?



The loader in the above photo could cause the following hazards:

- Sorting, piling and loading can cause logs to roll, shift or collapse.
- The boom swing or vibration from moving near the log deck can dislodge logs or cause them to shift position.
- Operators vision is often limited.
- Warning signs with contact information and radio frequency should be posted for other workers and vehicle traffic



Log decks should be:



- Constructed with log deck stability in mind.
- Located in areas that are stable and with minimal slope where feasible.
- In areas having moderate to steep slopes, decks should be constructed parallel to the slope angle where feasible or on a landing to minimize risk of movement.
- Cleared of debris to provide safe movement for workers and equipment.
- Cleared of standing tree hazards which are within falling distance of the pre-deck, log deck, or parking areas, and
- Be located a safe distance away from power lines or infrastructure
- Subject to controls such as no-go zones for persons on the ground. i.e. stay out of the bite.

Additional links:

BCFSC - Safe Work Procedure - Hydraulic Log Loader

BCFSC - Mechanized Harvesting Assessments – The BC Forest Safety Council

Safe Driving is Good Business