

# SAFETY ALERT

## Lost Time

March 9, 2018

## Potential Hazards

- Exposure to falling objects and moving equipment because:
  - Not following safe procedures.
    - Not staying clear in “safe zone”.
    - Wrapping while being loaded.
  - Poor or no communication.
  - No visual contact.
  - Complacency and rushing.

## Preventative Actions

- Drivers must stay in a “safe zone” while being loaded, which is usually inside the cab or in location that is well out in front of the truck.
- Drivers must let the loader operator know before exiting the truck or leaving the “safe zone”.
- Ensure that there is a single radio channel well established for driver and loader operator to communicate with each other.
- Loader operators must not load unless they can make visual contact with the driver or have received confirmation they are clear.

## Incident Summary

- The loader operator started loading the third bundle after assuming that the driver was safely back inside the truck after having come out to verify trailer weights.
- In an attempt to “save” time, the driver started wrapping the other bundles while the loader operator was loading logs.
- The loader operator attempted to free a log that wasn’t loaded properly and dangling from the last bundle.
- The dangling log broke while the loader operator was handling it and part of it struck the driver that was on the other side of the load; the driver suffered serious head injuries and was immediately transported to hospital.



## Safety Contacts

Follow up questions to ask your worker:

- 1) Can you explain the safe work procedures for loading log trucks?
- 2) Can you describe where the “safe zones” are?
- 3) What would you do if you can’t see the driver (or loader operator) while loading?



## Loader Wrapper/Binder Assist Procedures



Trucking & Harvesting Advisory Group

**JOB STEP:** Loader Placing Wrappers/Binders Over Logs

**HAZARDS:** Being struck by logs, wrappers. Loader interaction and proximity. Slip, trip and falls.

**When Required:** Loader assist is not required procedure to meet existing Worksafe regulations. It may be used at the discretion of the log truck driver and contractor when needed for various reasons such as height of load and driver physical ability. When used the following procedures should be followed.

### **SAFE PROCEDURES:**

1. Loaderman finishes loading, puts grapple on ground, in a location clearly visible to driver, idles down machine, engages hydraulic lockout, and radios / signals driver that the loading is complete.
2. Truck driver and loader man will assess the area and load and determine whether it is safe to have the loader place the wrappers over the load. Some factors to consider: load stability, overhead hazards, road surface, road width, steep sideslopes/banks with the potential of something rolling/sliding off and hitting the driver, and the ability for the loaderman to see the driver during the securement process etc. If it is not safe to use loader assist, the driver will move to a safe location and throw the wrappers over manually.
3. Driver retrieves wrappers and places them through the grapple. The driver then proceeds to the front / cab or 15 m away from load to ensure he is in a safe zone, establishes eye contact with the loaderman and hand signals to the loaderman that he is in the clear.
4. The loaderman lifts the wrappers over the load and releases them, then places the grapple on ground, idles down the machine and engages the hydraulic lockout.
5. Steps 3 and 4 are repeated for each set of wrappers and/or bunk.
6. Once each bunk has its wrappers on, the driver adjusts the wrappers as required. The driver can wrap up at the loader, or with direction from the loaderman, can move forward to the closest safe location (assessed by the driver) to finish securing the load.
7. Under no circumstances should the driver adjust or tighten the wrappers of one bunk while another bunk is being loaded.
8. If unsure about anything please stop and seek clarification before proceeding.