



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Seat failure on log loader puts brake out of reach

Date of Incident: October 2024

Location: Dryland sort, Vancouver Island

Details: A wheeled front end loader was proceeding to a log bunk with grapple raised, when the seat suspension broke, and sent the operator back into a reclined position preventing them from reaching the brake pedal.

There was potential for the machine to contact ground crew, other equipment and the log bunks, or travel toward and into the water (due to lack of visibility and loss of control).

The seat failure occurred about 15 feet from the bunk, and the operator was able to come to a full stop with no damage to the equipment by resting the boom and grapple on the top of the log bundle that was in the bunk.

The sudden and unexpected seat movement resulted in lower back injuries of a mild nature, but no lost time for the operator.

Learnings:

- The loaders operate 7 days a week, 9 hours a day. However, it went unnoticed that the seat was compromised. The excessive movement in the seat was a sign that it was damaged and vulnerable to failure.
- Failure to Check/Monitor: There is no scheduled inspection for this component.

Recommendations / Corrective Actions:

- Front end loader seats require scheduled inspections. Implement inspection of seat including suspension, mounting & pivot points, pins, and bushings at the 1000 hr. general service interval.
- Develop specific instructions for inspection points accompanied with mechanical drawing.
- Communicate to and share findings with all relevant parties across operations.

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BC Forest Safety

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