



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Rock dislodges from log truck, penetrates windshield of oncoming pickup and strikes driver's arm

Date: March, 2025

Location: Highway 97N, between Prince George and Bear Lake

Details of Close Call / Serious Incident: A logging contractor's pickup was heading north of town on HWY 97 to start his night shift around 2:00 a.m. The driver met two oncoming logging trucks.

The first truck passed, and a rock came loose that impacted the pickup's windshield and entered the cab. The rock struck the pickup driver's arm, but fortunately no injury occurred. *See images on page 2.*

Learnings & Suggestions:

- Loader operators and log truck drivers have a responsibility to identify unsafe loads that could result in an incident in transit.
- Loader operators and truck drivers must ensure that all logs are stable within the bunk and that there are no embedded objects such as rocks/boulders that can fly off and cause damages.
- Ensure drivers have adequate light when inspecting their load at night.
- Look at all areas of the load, but also get down so you can see underneath and into the "belly" of the load.
- Look for rocks or other debris between all duals, particularly before entering public roads/highways.
- Check flat surfaces of your rigging (e.g. reach, frame rail, bunk / bolster) where a rock could be sitting, waiting to fall off. At 100 km/hr., a 7 cm (<3") rock can penetrate a windshield!
- Pay close attention when you have been travelling through muddy sections, or where you have spied rocks that are "just the right size" to get stuck between the tires.
- Check mud flaps and fenders to ensure they are in good working order.



BC Forest Safety

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