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## SAFETY ALERT

06-S-12

### LOG TRUCK BACKS INTO LOADER OPERATOR

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[www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/06-S-12.html](http://www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/06-S-12.html)

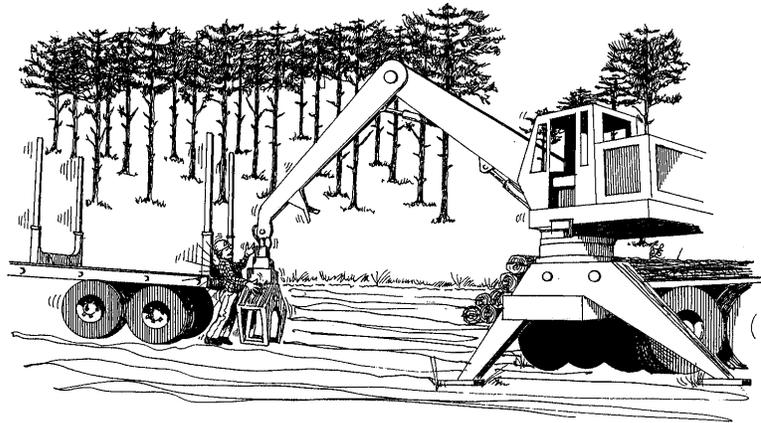
**BACKGROUND:** A log truck driver was waiting to back under a knuckleboom loader while another truck was being loaded at the landing.

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** The truck driver was in his 50s and experienced.

**UNSAFE ACTS AND CONDITION:** The waiting truck was partially turned so that the loading area was in the truck's blind spot. After the first truck was loaded and had pulled away, the knuckleboom loader operator set the grapple down in the loading area. He exited his cab to check hoses or to fix a problem with the grapple. Not seeing him, the driver of the waiting truck then backed into the loading area, assuming it was clear. The knuckleboom loader operator was unaware of the truck backing toward him. (The log truck had no "backing-up" alarm.)

**ACCIDENT:** The truck continued backing and pinched the knuckleboom loader operator between the moving trailer and the boom/grapple.

**INJURY:** The truck driver pulled the trailer forward, and the knuckleboom loader operator was life-flighted to a hospital in serious condition. He suffered four broken ribs and was initially believed to have a punctured lung and a broken back. He spent over a week in intensive care and eventually was able to breathe on his own, and full recovery is anticipated.



### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:**

- Always be alert as to the whereabouts and the actions of others on a logging job, especially at the landing. Remember, it's the responsibility of those in an enclosed cab to watch out for ground workers.
- Use CB radios, two-way radios, or other visible/audible means to communicate an "all clear" signal or announce potential hazards.
- Take time to be safe—saving a few minutes of time is not worth the possibility of a life-changing accident. Plan ahead, and think about the consequences of actions ahead of time.
- Keep first aid/CPR certification current.

*Reviewed by:*

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*Please follow equipment manufacturers' recommendations for safe operation and maintenance procedures.*