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SAFETY ALERT

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FORESTER'S PICKUP TRUCK COLLIDES WITH DOZER

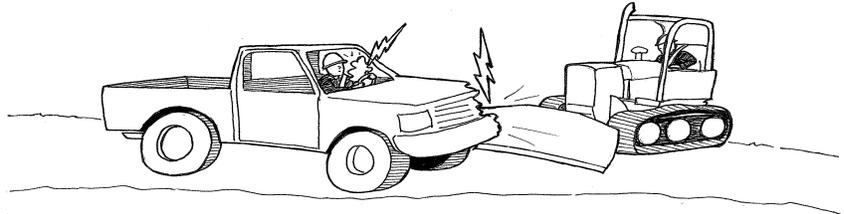
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www.forestresources.org/MEMBERS/serpub/06-S-15.html

BACKGROUND: On a clear, freezing winter day in the South, a forester was traveling on a gravel county road the day after a winter storm when he encountered a logging contractor's bulldozer on the road. The winter storm deposited four inches of snow covered by one inch of sleet. Highways in the county had been opened for travel, but back roads were in poor travel conditions.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The forester had 22 years of experience and had participated in ongoing safety training. The logging contractor's employee operating the dozer also had 20 years of experience working in the woods.

UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION: The forester was going to check the contract harvesting crew to see when they would be able to start hauling wood. The dozer operator was working on the gravel road to break the crust of ice to facilitate melting. The forester was traveling around a curve in the road at an unsafe speed when he saw the dozer in the road. The dozer operator saw the pickup coming toward him, and immediately reversed the dozer to get off the road.



ACCIDENT: The four-wheel drive pickup collided with the dozer blade immediately after the dozer started backing up.

INJURY: The driver of the pickup sustained minor bruising from the seat belts and air bag deployment. The dozer operator did not sustain any injuries and was also wearing his seat belt. The pickup was totaled from the collision. The dozer was not damaged.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:

- The forester should have exercised caution when traveling on icy roads, and adapted his speed to the road conditions.
- Operators and drivers should use two-way radios for better communication.
- The contractor should have had a warning sign or lookout posted around the curve to alert oncoming traffic.
- The use of seat belts minimized personal injury in this accident. Buckle up!

Reviewed by:

Jason Cutshall

Southcentral Region Manager

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