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## SAFETY ALERT

**06-S-14**

### IMPROPER EQUIPMENT LOADING LEADS TO FALL

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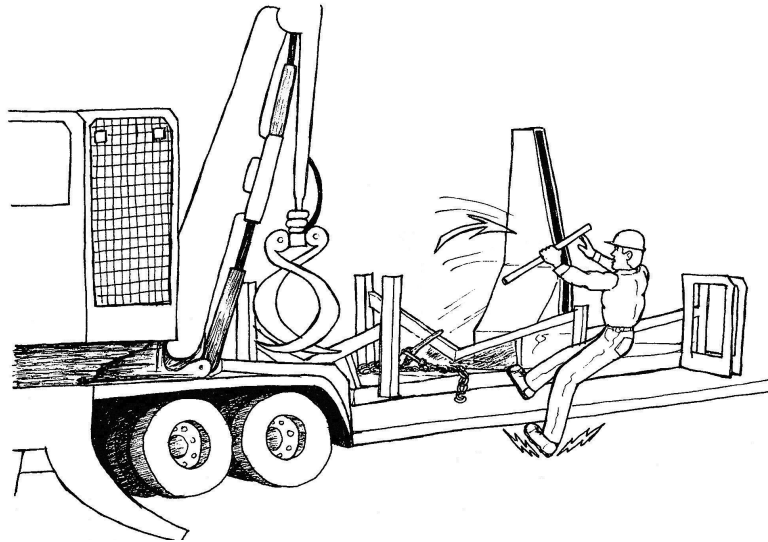
[www.forestresources.org/MEMBERS/serpub/06-S-14.html](http://www.forestresources.org/MEMBERS/serpub/06-S-14.html)

**BACKGROUND:** On a hot, summer day in the South a truck driver was binding down a slasher saw to the frame of a knuckleboom loader trailer before transporting the loader to a new tract.

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** The truck driver had worked for the logging company for three years and had 18 years of experience as a truck driver. He was wearing footwear that provided ankle support. The logging company had a comprehensive safety plan, held regular safety meetings, and had a good overall safety record.

#### **UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION:**

While standing on the narrow frame of the loader trailer, without a secure hold, the truck driver attached the chain and break-over binder to the trailer frame and attempted to tighten the binder with a cheater pipe to gain leverage.



**ACCIDENT:** The pipe slipped off the binder causing the truck driver to lose his balance and fall back awkwardly off the trailer. He landed on his feet but felt his ankle pop.

**INJURY:** The truck driver's awkward fall resulted in an apparently broken ankle.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:** The truck driver should have established a stable position, with a secure handhold, rather than relying on the binder to stabilize himself while on the loader. The logging company should consider replacing break-over binders with safer, more convenient ratchet-type binders. Never use "cheater pipe" implements to assist in tightening binders unless they are specifically designed for that purpose.

*Reviewed by:*

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