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SAFETY ALERT

05-S-10

WORKER INJURED NEAR LOG PILE

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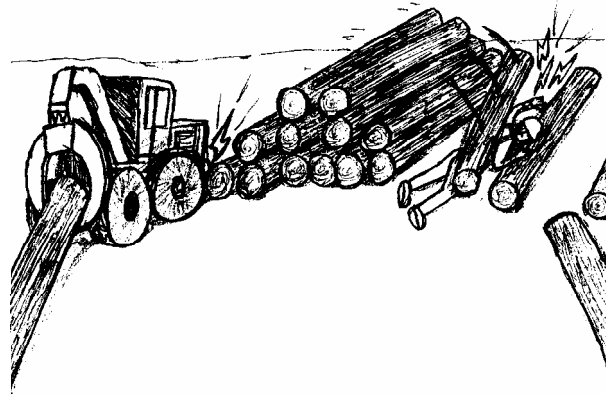
www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/05-s-10.html

BACKGROUND: A logger was working at the deck, trimming, bucking, and topping logs on a warm spring day in the South.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The 31-year-old deck hand had eleven years' experience in logging, was well liked by his co-workers, and did not have a record of working unsafely. His company did not have any type of safety program in place, written or verbal. The logger's personal protective equipment consisted of a hard hat, work boots, face protection, and hearing protection but no high visibility clothing.

UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION: A skidder was working too close to the employee working in the deck, who was not wearing high visibility clothing.

ACCIDENT: Throughout the day, the skidder operator pulled logs to the deck as the deck hand prepared the logs for loading. Eventually, the skidder "bumped" the log pile with the front blade, sending a log crashing on top of the deck hand.



INJURY: The deck hand fell face first onto another log and smashed his nose and mouth and fractured all of his ribs, his skull, and his left ankle. He suffers from short-term memory loss and is unable to return to work as a logger.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION: The deck hand and his co-workers became too comfortable with their work and failed to recognize a hazardous situation. The following are a few preventive measures.

- 1) Employees should wear high visibility clothing at all times.
- 2) OSHA requires all logging employees to be trained in hazardous they may be exposed to, and the employer to hold regular safety meetings.
- 3) The skidder operator is responsible for ensuring that his operations do not create dangers for other workers.
- 4) Always stay alert to the task at hand. Routine and varied training helps prevent complacency.

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