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SAFETY ALERT

07-S-10

LOG SPILL AT UNBINDING STATION

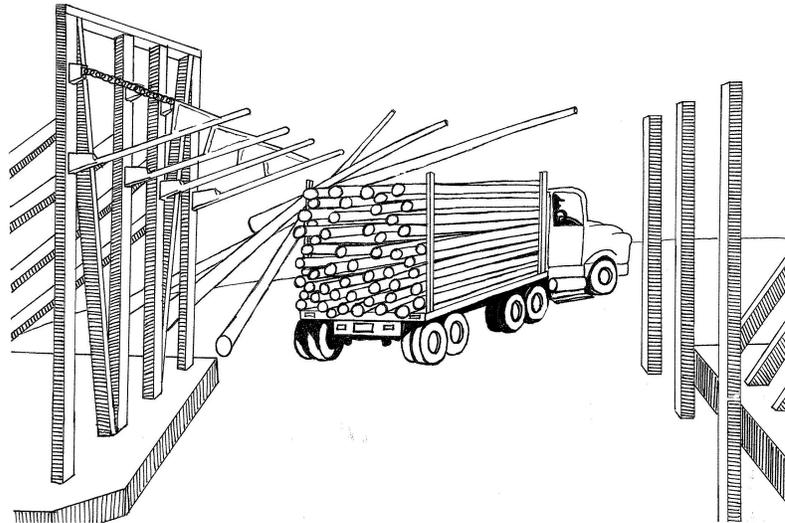
August 2007

www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/07-S-10.html

BACKGROUND: A truck driver was delivering a load of tree-length hardwood pulpwood to a pulp and paper mill on a clear and dry spring afternoon in the South. The driver had scaled in, proceeded to the unbinding station, removed the binders from the load, and begun to leave the unbinding station to proceed to the cranes to be unloaded.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The 55-year-old truck driver had been driving a log truck for his firm for twelve years and was considered to be fully trained. The driver had no physical disabilities and had a clean accident record. The driver was wearing a hard hat and safety glasses at the unbinding station.

UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION: The loader operator at the harvesting site loaded the stems above the trailer's standards. The truck driver had failed to recognize the height of the stems on the trailer and have the load corrected.



ACCIDENT: As the truck driver proceeded to the cranes to be unloaded after unbinding the load, several stems of pulpwood fell from the trailer. Apparently either the movement of the truck or the bumping of the swing arms of the unbinding station against the standards was all the force needed to make the stems fall from the trailer.

INJURY: Fortunately, no one was near the truck when it departed the unbinding station, so no one was injured.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION: Stems should never be loaded above the standards of a trailer. Drivers should carefully inspect loads before departing for delivery points. If stems are loaded above the standards, drivers (or anyone on the logging site) should instruct the loader operator to remove stems from the load.

All unloading facilities should be equipped with an unbinding station, and truck drivers must be required to use it. In this case, if the wood had fallen during unbinding, the unbinding station would most likely have caught the falling stems. However, if the driver had unbound the load outside of the station, or if a station had not been provided, a serious or fatal injury could have occurred.

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