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SAFETY ALERT

07-S-16

LOGGER INJURES HAND ON LOWBOY

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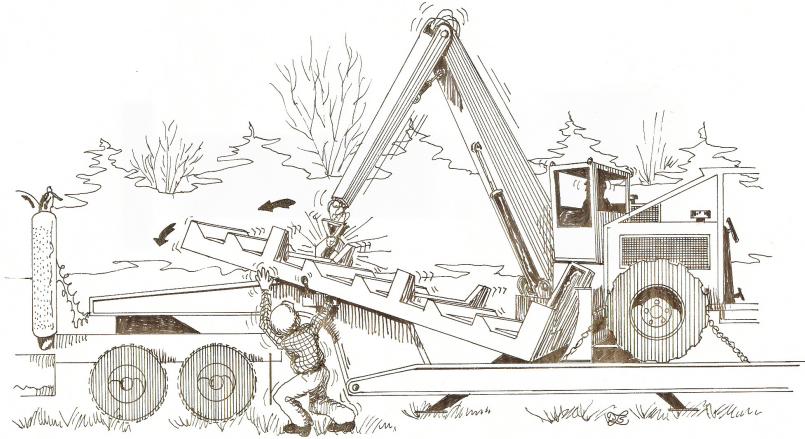
www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/07-S-16.html

BACKGROUND: An Appalachian-region logging contractor and his son had loaded a skidder and sawbuck onto a lowboy for transport to the next job.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: The 57-year-old contractor grew up in the logging business and had three sons working with him. They consistently used personal protective equipment and had good safety records.

UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION: The weight of loaded equipment on a lowboy that was attached to a road tractor prevented the supporting dolly's being raised. The contractor elected to use his knuckleboom loader to lift some of the weight off the front of the lowboy to relieve pressure on the dolly. His oldest son was on the opposite side of the lowboy (out of the contractor's line of sight) to lift and lock the dolly.

ACCIDENT: In the process of positioning the grapple of the knuckleboom, the contractor caught the edge of the loaded sawbuck and pushed it into the lockdown handle of the dolly lift system, which his son was using. The handle pinned his son's hand to the lowboy.



INJURY: The contractor was initially unaware of what had occurred and was only able to remove the pressure on the handle after he caught movement from his son frantically waving his free arm. His son was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. He suffered severe swelling to the hand and numerous skin ruptures. He was expected to make a complete recovery, but he missed six weeks of work.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION: After attaching a road tractor to the lowboy, raise the dolly before loading equipment onto the lowboy. When working as a team, always maintain "line of sight" and safe, clear distance when positioning heavy loads.

Reviewed by:

Rick Meyer

Appalachian/Southeastern Region Manager

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