



# Sun Glare Causes Near Miss

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**SAFETY ALERT • APRIL 2023**

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## BACKGROUND

It was a sunny day in January in the Appalachians. The temperature was in the 40s, with moderately dry ground conditions. A forester was visiting a logging site and had a discussion with the owner of a logging crew who described a near-miss incident involving their skidder.

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The operator was in his early 30s and had been working in the logging industry for over five years. He was considered a very safe and conscientious worker.

## UNSAFE ACT

As the skidder operator approached the landing, he was driving directly into the sun during the mid-afternoon hours. The sun's glare caused reduced visibility and prevented the operator from seeing the high stump he was approaching. The machine tire went into the stump, climbing up on it and abruptly dropping off.



This caused the machine to tip violently from side to side.

## ACCIDENT

No accident occurred because the operator maintained control of the machine.

## INJURY

None.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR CORRECTION

Ensure the skid road into the landing is routed to avoid a direct approach to the sun throughout the day. Make sure to clean the windshield daily or more frequently throughout the day. Ensure that stump heights along skid roads are cut low, preventing the operator from losing control.



This Safety Alert analyzes an injury in accordance with the chain of events represented by the five dominoes above. Pioneer industry safety experts H.W. Heinrich and Alfred Lateiner developed this accident analysis system to provide a graphic sense of how injuries can be avoided. Their methodology has been accepted by safety professionals worldwide.

**Safety Meeting Report**

*Topic(s) Discussed:*

*Comments / Recommendations:*

*Date:*

*Company:*

*Names of Employees Attending:*

*Meeting Conducted by:*

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

*signature*