

Hazards around the Industry



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Each and every day tens of thousands individuals head to work in the forest product industries. Hazards abound whether you are in the woods, at the landing, driving a truck, at the mill or whatever position your job entails.

One area that gains negative attention both locally and nationally is when a "log truck" is involved in an accident.

Sometimes, the accidents are a result of another driver causing the incident, sometimes, it is the truck driver themselves. No matter who is at fault, the news will always describe it as "A log truck" accident.

Every time a loaded log truck drives on a public highway, it is an advertisement for your company. Have you put your best foot forward? Is the truck clean and debris removed so it does not get flung at other vehicles? Do the tires have adequate tread so they do not disintegrate and become airborne projectiles? Is the load secured and trimmed properly to prevent limbs or other objects from falling off in transit?

If you as a truck driver, or employer, or loader operator takes a few seconds to look over the loaded truck before it departs the job, some of the horrific accidents we have all seen on television might not have occurred.

A simple check to help put your best foot forward could include:

- no loose debris,
- no free hanging limbs,
- no excessive mud,
- no logs over the standards,
- all loads chained or strapped,
- and proper flagging and/or lights.



Once the driver leaves the rutted woods area, it is recommended that he or she stop and check the load securement.

Imagine your family member in a car following this log truck. What if it happened to be your truck that you loaded out earlier?

Each person on the logging crew should be aware how simple it is for one thing to be overlooked. Loader operators must be aware that the logs they load will shift in route to the mills. Drivers must inspect their loads and not take loads that are unsafe. Employers must instill a safety mindset that a few extra minutes to fix this type of error could be a lifesaving step. Unfortunately, if it is not fixed, it could be a devastating loss of life or property, or be a legal nightmare. Take time to check it before it leaves your control. **DO NOT LET THIS BE THE NEXT NEWS CAST.**

2015 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____