

RISK ALERT



SAFE LOADING AND UNLOADING OPERATIONS AND SECURING OF LOADS

Every year, New Brunswick workers suffer serious injury during loading operations in the woods, or unloading at the millyard.

Common causes of injury during loading are:

1. falls from the trailer during loading;
2. slips and falls climbing or descending the ladder of the trailer;
3. blows to the head or body from a falling log or the clam of the loader.

Unloading at the millyard can also be dangerous if safety precautions aren't taken. Several New Brunswick workers have been injured, and two have been killed, when they were struck by improperly secured logs while removing the tie down straps and binders at the millyard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To avoid injury, WHSCC Health and Safety Officers recommend:

- Workers involved in the loading, unloading and hauling of forest products must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (hard hat and steel-toed boots with puncture-resistant soles).
- Workers should either stay inside the cab or stand safely out of the way while trucks are being loaded and unloaded, maintaining eye contact with the loader-operator at all times.
- Tie down straps should be placed over the load with the help of the loader. If this is not possible, the tie downs should be thrown over the load.
- Tie down straps should be spaced three metres apart over the length of the load, and securely fastened.
- Trucks/trailers should be equipped with ladders to provide safe access for inspection purposes.
- Logs should be loaded to the height of the stakes and no higher.
- While en route, the driver should stop occasionally to verify that the load is secure.
- Once the driver reaches the unloading area, he/she should walk around the trailer to verify that the load is stable before unhooking the tie down straps.
- If the logs have shifted, the driver should ask the loader-operator to stabilize the load before unhooking the binders.

NOTE: Vehicle operators shall abide by the Motor Vehicle Act with respect to the securing of loads on public and private highways.

Prevention Services, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission

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WHSCC
All Accidents are Preventable

Check out the CCOHS website, www.ccohs.ca, or call 1 800 263-8466 for health and safety