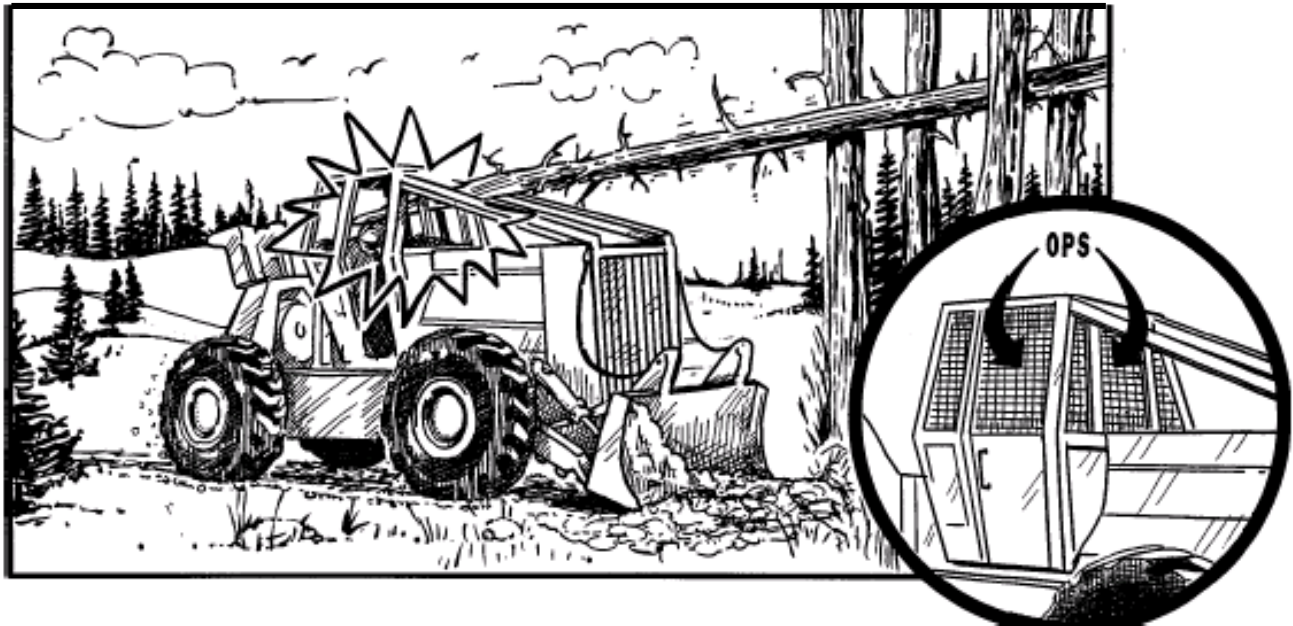


OPERATOR PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES (OPS)



ACCIDENT:

A worker operating a skidder along a skid trail was fatally injured when the top of a “blow down” tree trunk entered the open side of the cab and pinned the operator against the structure.

CAUSE:

The skidder was not equipped with an operator protective structure (OPS) to provide a shielded cab to prevent the penetration of tree trunks and other materials into the operator's working space. Such protective structures are made of properly designed and installed steel plate and screening in order to provide a substantial protective barrier.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

Employers must ensure that skidders and other types of logging equipment subject to this type of hazard are equipped with a suitable OPS. The OPS shall be a properly designed structure provided by the manufacturer of the equipment or a structure designed and fabricated according to the requirements of a professional engineer. (SAE J1084 Recommended Practice is an acceptable standard).

Operators of logging equipment must be trained in safe procedures to be used when operating logging equipment and be made aware of any restrictions or precautions to be used when utilizing OPS in logging operations.