

Preventing Dangerous Log Loading and Transport

According to a study conducted by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, there is a dramatic increase in the crash fatality rate with each ton loaded onto a truck. A truck weighing 80,000 pounds is more than twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash as a truck weighing 50,000 pounds. Rollovers are more likely in an overweight or overloaded truck, since the center of gravity is usually higher. Because of the additional weight, brake temperatures increase above normal on downhill runs, contributing to the possibility of total brake failure and a “runaway” rig. The fact is, that after the driver steps on the brakes, a 100,000 pound truck travels 25% further than a 80,000 pound truck, and a 120,000 pound truck travels 50% further!

In addition to braking problems, steering sensitivity diminishes greatly on overweigh trucks, causing the driver to be more likely to lose control and possibly be involved in a fatal crash. Think of the possible consequences, next time *before* you load on that extra log or two! Is the extra revenue worth a life?

Loading and unloading logs to and from logging trucks can present employee hazards from the inadvertent release of logs as well as the movement of the loader itself. Proper securing and releasing of the logs, and clear work areas can prevent employee injury.

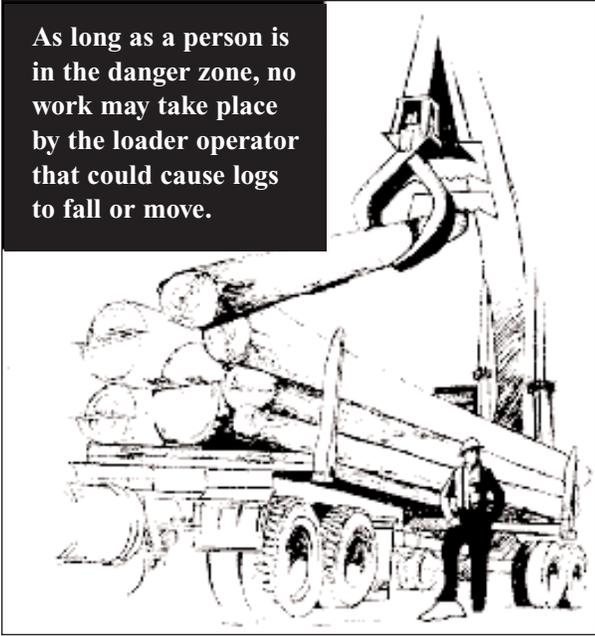
The following control measures will help prevent dangerous log loading and transport:

- Logs must be properly secured. Each tie down must be left in place over the peak log until the unloading lines or stakes are put in place, and tie downs must be released only from the side on which the unloading machine operates.
- Secure the loading and unloading area to prevent personnel in the danger zone.
- Recruit only experienced truck drivers.
- Establish maximum load limits for all log trucks and trailers.
- Prohibit crosswise-loading of logs.
- Encourage operators to clean/rinse excessive mud off tires.
- Mark or flag the end of a load.
- Establish a vehicle inspection program for all mobile equipment.
- Establish safe travel routes for log trucks and trailers.
- Incorporate defensive driver training into the company’s fleet safety program.

For more information, contact your local Hartford agent or your Hartford Loss Control Consultant. Visit The Hartford’s Loss Control web site at <http://www.thehartford.com/corporate/losscontrol/>

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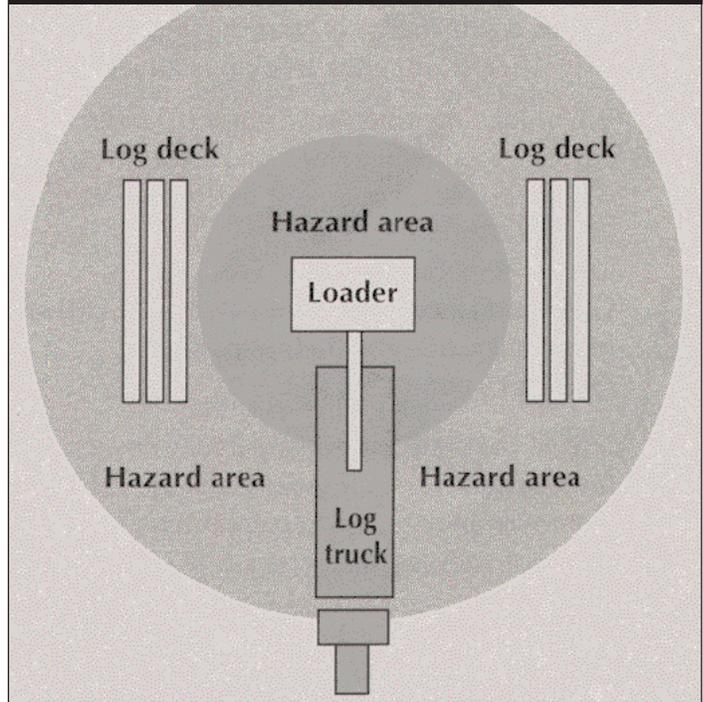
As long as a person is in the danger zone, no work may take place by the loader operator that could cause logs to fall or move.



A serious accident waiting to happen

Secure the areas around the log truck and loading/unloading areas

The area on *both* sides of the log truck behind the cab guard



Don't let this happen to you

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