

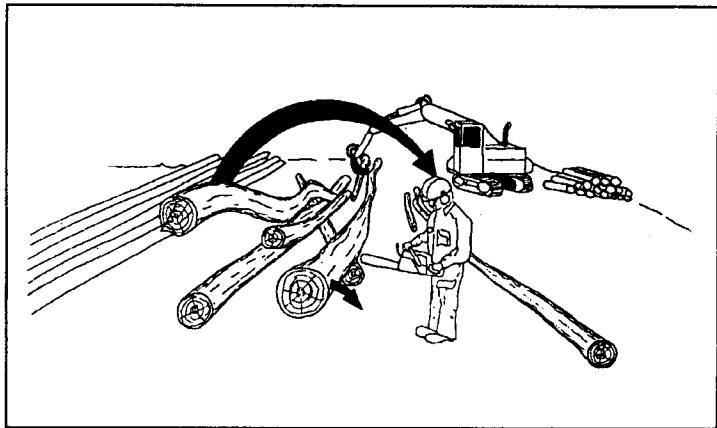
Fatal injury on log skid

A logging contractor suffered fatal injuries when struck by a log thought to be disturbed by a log loader.

What happened

A reconstruction was necessary to determine how the contractor came to be hit. The following is based on assumptions from the reconstruction.

The contractor and the loader driver were working on the skid cutting and stacking logs. The excavator-type loader was working at one end of a heap of logs and the contractor was at the other. The operator used the machine to reach into the heap of logs to lift out some shorts for stacking. In the meantime, the contractor decided to start cutting slovens off logs at his end of the heap. In reaching into the heap, the loader caused the logs to slump down and a badly bent log arced over and struck the contractor while he worked.



Accident cause

Working on a heap of logs while a machine was sorting and stacking at the same heap.

Prevention

Skid workers must remember that an operator's job requires a great deal of concentration and that their vision can be limited as the machine turns while working.

In this case, the operator had seen the contractor sitting on the blade arm of a parked bulldozer. The next time he looked, the contractor was lying on the ground with fatal injuries.

Workers must assess the stability of log heaps and if they appear unstable, get the machine to place the logs safely. They should never work on logs while the machine is reaching into the heap sorting and stacking.

