

BUSH BULLETIN

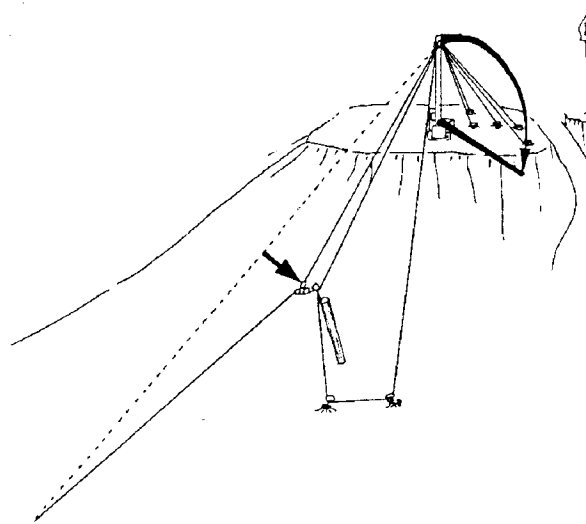
Hauler accidents

Two recent hauler tower accidents highlight the need for correct guyline placement and adjustment to meet changed pulling angles when bridling. In both cases, considerable damage occurred. It is fortunate that there were no injuries to workers.

Incorrect guyline placement (based on a report supplied by Tasman Forestry Ltd.)

What happened

While bridling in a North Bend operation, the skyline deflected sideways towards the drag during mainline inhaul. Lateral support for the pole was so diminished that it toppled over sideways. The diagram shows the actual position of the guylines around the pole and the positions of the various ropes at the time of the accident.

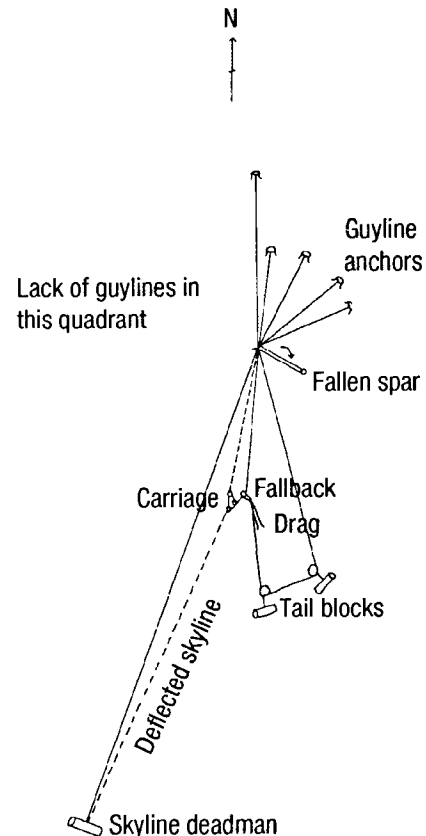


Accident cause

Lack of attention to the correct guyline and hauler positioning, and added hazard while bridling.

Prevention

At least one guyline should have been positioned in the empty quadrant to the west of the hauler. The alternative was to reposition the hauler and completely reposition the guylines. There is a need for increased focus on hauler and guyline positioning, especially when bridling.



Main rope catches on stump causing guy anchors to fail (details from the company's investigation)

What happened

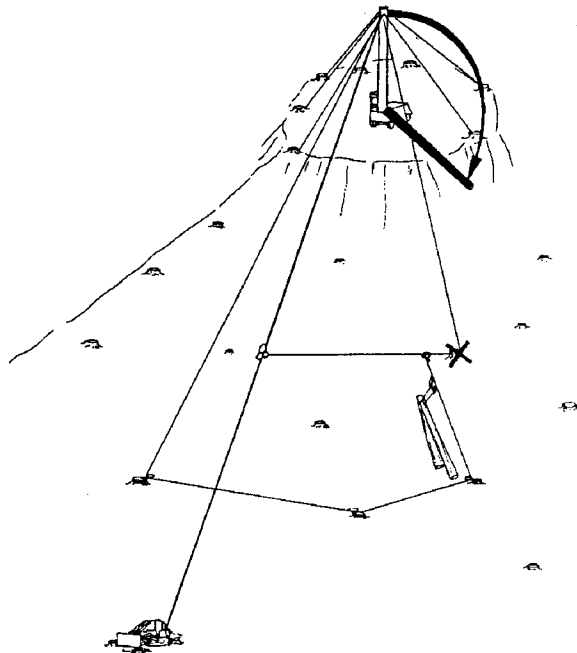
In a North Bend operation, it was necessary to bridle 50 metres from the skyline. At inhaul, the main rope became hooked behind a stump but the hauler operator continued to apply pull. He was not stopped by the breaker-outs and, as a result, the guy stump directly behind the line of haul was pulled out. In a chain reaction, another stump was pulled out and two guy stumps were sheared. This resulted in the tower and hauler tipping over.

Accident cause

The investigation found that the causes of the accident were:

Major:

1. Main rope caught behind stump and hauler operator continued to apply pull.



Breaker-outs did not stop hauler operator.

2. The guy ropes were not changed around after a large change in the angle of pull.

Contributing Factors:

1. Heavy rain the previous day probably weakened the stumps.
2. The roots of one stump were damaged from previous logging.
3. Breaker-outs were using the whistle in place of the usually-used radio, so there was no voice contact.

Prevention

1. As in the other hauler accident reported, more care should have been taken in the positioning of the guy ropes with the change in angle of the pull.
2. The breaker outs should have been alert to what was happening and signalled the hauler operator to cease the pull.

