

Logs Hit Hard at Break-Out

Fractures caused by being hit by logs are the most common serious harm accidents at break-out. In hauler operations, rope movement and rigging are additional hazards.

General

- Have one person in charge of breaking-out and a clear, unmistakable system of signalling. This person should give all the signals except that any person may give emergency signals.
- To maintain control of a drag, strops should be attached no more than 1 metre, if practicable, from the end of the log or tree. The operator should be notified if it is necessary to have strops further than 1 metre from the end of the log or tree and they should take any safety steps necessary to prevent harm to employees.
- Good work practice would be to, if practicable, reposition strops if any are too far from the end of the log or tree by moving the drag slowly forward to a favourable working position.
- Don't have unstropped logs riding in the drag. They should be dropped or properly stropped before proceeding with the drag to the landing.
- Short logs can be dangerous as the haul proceeds as they are more prone to cartwheel or end-for-end if they get snagged.
- Before signalling the break-out, the breaker-out should move to a safe position:
 - Where movement is not restricted;
 - Behind the uphill side of the drag if possible;
 - Out of rope bight;
 - Clear of any material likely to be dislodged at break-out; and
 - Out of the reach of any log swinging or upending.

- Don't try and hook or unhook strops while the machine or winch rope is moving.

Ground Based

- **Seat belts shall be worn while operating mobile plant.**
- Where the machine operator has to attach strops to logs they should:
 - Angle the machine away from the breakout area;
 - Apply the brake;
 - Lower the hydraulics; and
 - Ensure the winch is in the free spool position.
- Except for radio-controlled winches with fail-safe devices, don't operate winches from outside the protective structure or cab.
- When breaking-out, always stay in view of the operator and do not move towards the machine unless signalled.
- Winch ropes shall be of sufficient length so that machines are not put in hazardous situations at breakout. Avoid winching at acute angles.

Cable Logging

- Don't stand under a moving operating rope or approach the butt rigging or carriage until it has stopped.
- Stand well outside the true line of operating ropes as well as the current operating line which may result from some obstruction or lay of the topography. If gear gets fouled on a snag, ropes can tension quickly and take up the true line of haul.