# **Ground Personnel and Truck Drivers Safety**

# In the past several years, several loggers and truck drivers have been killed or seriously injured as they worked around the deck or landing. These accidents involved individuals struck by logs, as well as ran over by loaders or hit by another truck.

# **Tips to Keep Ground Personnel Safe**

* Per OSHA, standards, a driver can remain in the cab of the truck during loading is if the loader does not swing the logs over the cab and if the cab is protected.
* The safest place for drivers is out of the cab and in a designated waiting area that is both a safe distance from trucks being loaded and out of the path of moving machinery or trucks.
* All ground personnel, including log truck drivers who are out of their cabs, should wear hard hats, safety glasses and high visibility vests. High visibility clothing is a must for ground personnel as well as safety glasses and a hard hat.
* Ground personnel cannot be seen at times due to the many items at the deck or landing. Slash piles, sawbucks, log piles and parked vehicles can impede the equipment operators from seeing the person on the ground. Do not forget to look for visitors.
* Loader operators must stop loading operations if anyone enters the danger zone around a truck being loaded.
* Drivers should receive clearance from the loader operator before approaching their truck and should be sure that the logs are stable before walking the load or applying binding or straps.
* Equipment operators must be aware of the line of site problems their equipment present due to size and attachments. Skidder operators lose sight of ground personnel because of engine covers and loaders operators have a blind spot because of the boom.
* Good communications are the key to a successful and safe log deck. CB Radios, walkie-talkies, or cell phones can keep the loader operator in direct contact with everyone entering or exiting the log deck. Hand signals and direct eye-to-eye contact can keep visitors from walking into a danger zone with moving equipment.

Safety meetings are important ways to make sure employees learn about the hazards of the logging site. Always remind employees how to find and contact emergency services in the event of an injury. Slow down and look carefully around you so everyone goes home each day.