



Driver Fatality In The Woods

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Rollovers? Ever been affected by this type of mishap? Most, if not all rollovers are preventable. In a very small number of cases, some rollovers occur due to other vehicles that caused the mishap, while some occur due to equipment failure. In the forest product industry, log trucks experience more rollovers than chip vans. Log trailers have a higher center of gravity than a normal cargo load. It takes **.4g's** (g's - gravitational forces) or less to rollover. A car must exceed 1.3g's compared to 1.1 g's for a pickup truck or .8g's for a SUV for them to rollover. It is extremely easy to exceed the g-forces on a log truck

Where do rollovers occur:

- Drifting off the pavement onto a soft shoulder
- Making a tight corner
- Striking a curb
- Running into a ditch
- Entering or exiting onto a ramp at excessive speeds
- Going around a curve too fast

Speed is the number one cause of rollovers. Too fast for the road conditions on a good day will cause a rollover. Add rain, ice, sleet or snow to the excessive speed and you will turn your loaded trailer over. **SLOW DOWN** and adjust to weather and road conditions.

The weight of the load when a driver drifts off the pavement onto a soft shoulder, can cause rutting and make it hard to return the vehicle back onto the pavement. Sometimes the driver over reacts and jerks the steering wheel will lead to a rollover. So what can you do?

Loading a trailer:

- Heavy logs on the bottom
- Loader operator should distribute the weight evenly throughout the bunks
- Make sure tie downs/binders/straps are tight before leaving the deck
- Check tie downs/binders/straps along the route as they will loosen.

Driving:

- Use caution when turning or changing lanes
- Slow down when entering or exiting onto highways
- Follow speed limit signs going into curves
- Keep the tires on the pavement
- Do not let cell phones or CB radios distract you
- Adjust your speed to the weather conditions
- Give yourself extra time so as not to feel rushed
- Keep following distances so you have time to react to traffic changes

Remember to give yourself adequate time, keep your speed under control and maintain proper following distances. Above all else, keep the truck and trailer on the pavement.

2016 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____