

LOADER SAFETY



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Each logging site has inherent hazards due to the nature of the work you do. Logging equipment contributes to the hazards if not operated safely. The knuckleboom loader is our topic for this safety meeting.

PROPER SET UP: Consider location before setting up the deck.

- Make sure there are no hung or lodged trees near the landing.
- Consider the terrain. Make sure you can have the loader be level.
- The stabilizer legs should be properly grounded.
- Access to the ladder is needed to keep the operator does not have to walk on log piles to get on the loader.
- The operator needs a clear line of site in all directions.
- Remove trees to provide adequate turn/swing for the boom.
- Place service trucks and fuels trailers a safe distance from the loader.
- Do not set up and operate the loader within 100 feet of power transmission lines.
- Most loaders have a 30 foot boom and load between a 40 – 80 foot stem
- Contact with the line or being within 10 feet of high voltage lines can cause arcing in and around power lines.
- Make sure there is adequate access for log trucks to back in to the loader.

PROPER OPERATION:

- Follow owner's manual for safe operating procedures.
- Only trained operators should run the loader.
- Mount the loader from the designated area.

- Properly maintain the ladder, steps and walk platform.
- Build-up of mud, grease, and oil create a slip, trip and fall hazard.
- Proper guardrails should be around the walk platform.
- The loader should be equipped with a protected front window area.
- Operator must be aware of ground personnel and is responsible for checking the log deck area to insure no one is in the area.
- Have a safe area for a visitor, (insurance, landowners, vendors, drivers, etc. to stay until you give them a signal that it is ok to approach.
- Make eye contact before allowing anyone to come near the loader.
- Do not swing the grapple, whether loaded or unloaded over ground personnel or the cab of a truck.
- Never load a truck when the truck driver is in or standing near the truck.
- Make sure log piles are placed to prevent rolling so no one is injured.
- Folding log racks are a best practice to keep piles from shifting.
- The grapple should go completely around the log, not pinch the log, to keep the logs from falling.
- The truck should be loaded properly and not extended past the truck standards.
- Portable scales should be used to prevent overloading a truck.
- Ground the grapple on the ground or placed in the resting cradle when the loader is not in use.

Loader safety is keeping the log deck in good working order. While these steps may not be all inclusive, you should always follow the owner's manual for safe operating procedures.

2015 Safety Meeting Record

Date: _____ Company: _____

Names and signatures of ALL attendees to be attached.

Conducted by:(signature) _____