



INDUSTRY SAFETY ALERT

Grapple Yarder Tipped Over

Incident Date: February 20, 2020
Incident Type: Close Call with Damage



Location: Coastal Woodlands
Job Position: Yarder Operator



Summary: A Grapple Yarder Operator with a helper (New and Young Worker) standing on deck was backing machine down road (12%). Guylines were slack, boom upright and house was not parallel with tracks. Crew were moving to a better position to spool haulback (7/8" wire rope) onto drums. While backing down, the lower track slid on rock and ice, causing machine to slide cross-ways on the road. Stability was compromised and the yarder fell over on its side, landing on an unoccupied processor. Neither the operator nor helper were injured, however this event could have resulted in a serious injury had circumstances been slightly different (SIFp event).

Key Learnings and Recommendations:

- Safe working plans must be discussed prior to working in upset conditions. There were numerous safe options for completing the task.
- All workers have the right to refuse unsafe work.
- Never have a worker standing on the deck of a machine while moving.
- When travelling on steeper roads, the boom must be lowered (pointing up hill) to provide better stability.
- Consider snubbing machines if traction and stability is questionable.

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BC Forest Safety

Main Office: 420 Albert Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2V7
Central BC: 2666 Queensway, Prince George, BC, V2L 1N2
Toll Free: 1.877.741.1060 | bcforestsafe.org