

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 42

Date: November 2021	Focus Group: Log Transport Drivers
Topic: Log Security – Sap Run	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: Two pruned logs were lost from the trailer while the truck travelled through rural Taranaki. The first log landed next to a lay-by area, the second one (6km down the road) rolled over a fence into a paddock, damaging the fence.

Injury Details: No injuries – some minor property damage, but high potential!

Risk Awareness: With the **onset of spring**, there is an **increased sap-flow** in trees, making processed logs more slippery, especially when almost all bark is removed. Logs slipping out of the load is a very real risk to other road users and communities along country roads in particular – in this case, roadside businesses and a small country school.

Safe Behaviours: Loader operators and truck drivers play a key role to ensure the implementation of industry best practices. This alert is a reminder on seven of them:

1. Carry fewer logs in the grapple or loader beak.
2. Pay careful attention to log taper, set a level and even bed for each packet.
3. Ensure an even crown and good contact between all of the ‘top-logs’ and the securing chain and/or belly strop, where the latter is a requirement.
4. Load out the oldest logs first.
5. Check load security often – add in more checks along the journey, make adjustments.
6. Drive slowly and evenly on difficult road sections – avoid heavy braking.
7. Groundworkers – avoid walking on logs and stay well clear of loading and fleeting.

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on site notice board or in file:

Site Manager: _____ **Date:** / /
(initials)

