

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 99

Date: December 2025	Focus Group: Truck Drivers
Topic: Fit-for-Purpose – Load Restraint Safety	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background: A log truck driver was securing a load when he discovered his normal twitch bar was missing. With no spare bar available and no other trucks on site, he improvised by using a pipe to tighten the chains. While this worked initially, the pipe slipped during the final chain and struck the driver in the face, causing a minor injury.

Injury and Damage Details: Minor injury only – contusion to the chin and a slight black eye. No treatment required and no equipment damage reported.

Risk Awareness: Using non-compliant or improvised tools significantly increases the risk of injury. Fit-for-purpose twitch bars are designed with grip and locking lugs to prevent slippage. Improvised tools such as pipes lack these safety features and can disengage suddenly, causing facial, head, or upper-body injuries.

Safe Behaviours and Basics – Load Restraint Tasks:

- Only use fit-for-purpose twitch bars for tightening load restraint chains – follow Log Transport Safety Council ([Log Load Securing](#)) guidelines (click on blue hyperlink).
- Do not improvise with pipes or other non-approved tools.
- If correct equipment is unavailable, stop work and wait until compliant tools can be sourced.
- Check required load restraint equipment is present and serviceable before starting the task

For Site Manager:

Print and complete the following:

- Discuss with employees/operators:
- Place on-site notice board or in file:

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

