

PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 49

Date: September 2022	Focus Group: Log Load and Transport
Topic: Spring Sap Run – Slippery logs	Issued by: Nic Steens

Background and Incident: A pruned log slipped out of load and fell onto a forestry road.

Injury Details: No injuries or damage, however, this is a high potential incident! Quoting the [NZFOA/NZFFA Transport Committee](#), “Our whānau and friends share the road with our trucks. The safety of all people and the reputation of our industry relies on all stakeholders understanding the guidance and applying the rules (for effective load security).”

Risk Awareness: A log falling onto a roadway could cause severe damage to oncoming vehicles and serious injury to vehicle occupants and/or pedestrians. Loosing a log from a loaded bunk (packet of logs) effectively compromises load security and could lead to several logs falling (later in the journey), increasing the chances of damage and harm!

Safe Behaviours: Effective load security is a ‘critical risk’ particularly during the spring sap run. Please review the industry [loading standards](#) and [ACOP rules](#) to ensure we load right and proactively double-check load security. Key points to keep in mind include:

- Pay attention to log taper, setting a level and even bed for each truck packet.
- Ensure an even crown and good contact between all ‘top-logs’ and the securing chain and/or belly stop; where the latter is a requirement.
- Load out the oldest logs first and double-check load security.
- Drive slowly and evenly on difficult road sections – avoid heavy braking.

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)

