

SAFETY ALERT



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Re: Towing Alert

On March 13, 2005 a near fatal incident occurred when preparing to tow a drill on an incline with a logging skidder. The skidder was chained; the slope was slippery with 3 inches of mud over a hard sub surface. The slope was estimated to be 30 degrees. The skidder was backing down the hill towards the drill. The driller was standing in front of his drill and in the direct path of the skidder. The skidder lost traction approximately 15 feet from the drill. The skidder traveled rapidly the remaining distance and struck the drill at the bottom of the hill. As the skidder came down the slope the tire ran over the driller. This resulted in fractures of leg, arm, chest and pelvis.

The two most serious factors creating the injury in this incident was the driller standing in direct line while skidder was in motion and failure of the skidder operator to follow industry accepted procedures.

The accepted towing procedure is for the tow vehicle to come to a complete stop at a point reasonably away from the vehicle to be towed. Once the tow vehicle has stopped and been secured; the cable is un-spooled and attached to the vehicle to be towed. Any non essential personnel are to keep clear of the tow line and towing area and at no time will anyone be between moving equipment.