

Hazards at the Landing

Hand signals, whistles and horns should be understood by everyone. Chasers signal signal to yarder operators to control the landing of logs; those doing saw work stay in visual communications by with loader operators; trucks and loader operators establish horn signals to control movements. When signals are unclear, lines and machines won't move until the signals are acknowledged. Visual signals will be given from positions in the clear. No excess communications! Problems will be resolved before work begins. When an unusual activity is called for, communicate before you begin. When a hazard is spotted, everyone takes responsibility to correct it.

Landing arrangement, traffic routes, and log handling will minimize hazards. Loading positions, deck locations and limbing areas will be identified to make the work safe. There are truck turnarounds, crummy parking, firetruck parking, etc. Pinch points will be eliminated or barriers placed. Everyone will know the hazardous areas of moving lines or machines. As conditions change, the landing will be reorganized to be safe and effective. Keeping the landing cleaned up is everyone's job. Someone must be responsible for maintaining tools and rigging in assigned locations. Machine operators need to take care of their own machines, oil spills, access ladders, etc. The hazards of logs, lines, saws and other tools can be minimized by the operator maintaining control. Gravity is always acting on logs and lines to move them in unpredictable ways. Before you release control, make sure the situation is stable. Where a condition of instability is seen, stabilize it before continuing to work. If something gets out of control, don't take rash actions that may compound the problem. Think the situation through and regain control.

Don't put yourself or your machine in a position to create a hazard. Position yourself where you can be seen. Wear a bright colored vest and hardhat. Face the work and hazards and don't be blindsided. Before you change positions, signal your intentions. Know your limits and your machine's limits and when to reposition the work situation.

When work settles into a comfortable routine, the landing team knows what to expect of other workers. Patterns are familiar to old hands but new workers need full explanations. Problems arise when routine work masks the hazards and you make assumptions about what workers will do. You must be able to predict how the work will go, how the machinery will move, where the logs will go, and then allow yourself a margin of safety for the unexpected.

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The landing is a concentration of logging activities in a confined place. There are several kinds of hazards commonly recognizable at landings. Solutions to the hazards vary depending on how your landing arranges its work, but there are some common characteristics of safe and efficient landings. Let's look at hazards first:



PINCH POINTS
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