

# CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



**TITLE: Bunk Tip over**

**Number: 111**

**Date 13/10/2023**

## **Background**

On 5 September, a Tiger Cat Forwarder was travelling up a slope with the loaded bunk in front of the cab, when the wheel of the bunk struck a morganer (large dead log) causing the bunk to tip over. There were no injuries or damage to equipment.

## **Key Points**

- The centre pivot played a crucial role in preventing the cab from tipping over, thus reducing the risk of injury to the operator and minimising machine damage. This engineering control effectively served its purpose in mitigating the potential consequences. However, it remains essential to report and investigate these incidents to prevent future occurrences.
- The cell is on a steep slope which due to safety concerns machinery operates up and down the slope rather than across to prevent rollovers.
- Previous regeneration techniques have created a “windrow” of logs around the road perimeter of the cell. This windrow has created obscured hazards (logs) and limits opportunities for extraction tracks to be created.
- It is important that operators identify ground hazards as far as is practicable in difficult operating conditions (e.g., native forest operations).
- The operator’s vision was obscured by the load in front of the cab. New machinery is equipped with reversing cameras to assist operators.
- Forwarders inherently have a high centre of gravity. Loaded forwarder bays should not exceed the height of the load gate/headboard.
- It is important that operators are trained and fully aware of machine capabilities, safe working limits (including slope angles, load heights, and boom extension).
- It is crucial to have control measures in place to prevent these safe working limits from being exceeded, with operators well-informed about when and how to implement these controls.