



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SAFETY

Trucking- 01

LOAD TRIMMING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

Rationale: To ensure truckers prevent accident and injury by properly trimming a load of wood before entering on the highway.

Background: There have been incidents where debris from a load of wood has fallen off a truck while traveling on the highway. Personal injuries have also occurred while trimming debris and long pieces from loads in preparation for travel on the highway. These incidents could have been avoided if the load had been properly trimmed using safe procedures.

Procedures:

After a wood truck has been loaded, it then proceeds to the load aligners to straighten the load. When this is completed, the truck moves to the ramps for further preparations before entering on the highway.

While at the ramps, you must assess the load for any long pieces of wood, and any debris such as limbs that need to be removed. Pull out or remove any loose debris or unattached limbs. If trimming of the load is necessary and can be done with an axe, you must wear safety glasses or a screen, in addition to the personal protective equipment worn every day (hard hat, work gloves, and safety boots). If a chainsaw is required to trim the load, add safety glasses or a screen as well as safety chaps or pants to your usual safety equipment. Furthermore, the chainsaw must have all the safety features in proper working order, that is, a chain brake, trigger lock, muffler screen and chain catcher.



While using a chainsaw, you must follow all proper procedures for its use. Chainsaws must be started properly to avoid injury. Place the saw on the ground and hold firmly while hauling on the starter cord. The saw can also be started in the crotch clamp position. This is done with the rear handle between your thighs, holding the saw with your left hand and pulling the starter cord with your right hand. The “yo-yo” or drop start is dangerous and is not an acceptable method for starting a saw.

Do not use the chainsaw above shoulder height. A step is provided on top of the ramp to allow you to trim the entire load without reaching above the shoulder. Cutting with only one hand on the saw, and back-cutting (holding the saw vertically and sawing towards oneself) are not permitted at any time. Do not use the chainsaw in any other manner that may cause injury to you personally or to any bystander.

When the load has been trimmed and secured for transport, the truck can then proceed to the highway.

