



The Forestry Safety Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

Truck Driver Safety Toolbox Talk

Chaining Up for Winter Conditions

Drivers must be prepared for winter conditions. It is important to chain up when necessary and know when and how to properly install chains safely. The primary use for semi tire chains is in the ice and snow. You lose traction as the precipitation builds up during the winter months.

When and why, it is important to chain up

- Don't wait until it's too late for your safety and the safety of other road users.
- To reduce the risk of property damage.
- To keep you moving and help prevent downtime.
- If conditions are treacherous, you may be better off stopping and waiting for conditions to improve.
- Avoid chaining up at the side of the road. Drivers should position their vehicles in a way that provides ample space from other motorists. This is especially important at night when visibility declines, or in bad weather.
- Activate hazard lights when necessary. Make sure they are working and clear of mud and snow.
- Get close to the tires to minimize overextending your reach. Use a headlamp at night or in low-light conditions.
- Listen and watch for loose chains. Stop in a safe place to check chains and adjust as necessary. Secure your truck by applying the parking brake and turn off the engine. Use suitable non-slip wheel chocks to help secure the truck and trailer.
- Avoid running chains on bare pavement, hitting curbs, and spinning wheels. Inspect chains after use – repair or replace when necessary.
- Wear warm, waterproof, slip-resistant footwear, and a compliant high-visibility garment. Have multiple sets of gloves, waterproof clothing, and a small kneeling tarp.

Summary

The primary use for semi tire chains is in the ice and snow. You lose traction as the precipitation builds up during the winter months. Chains will massively improve your vehicle's ability to move steadily through or across snow and ice.



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Pre-Inspection

It is imperative to do a thorough check of the truck and its major systems to maintain safety on the road. Inspections need to occur before the start of a driver's shift and each time before entering public roads.

Important step for pre-inspection.

- Not only are you required to do so by federal law, but you also want the documentation in case of any claims against you and your company.
- Check for fluid leaks on the ground, including fuel, oil, coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, windshield washer fluid.
- Ensure your truck's air lines aren't damaged, don't leak, and are properly sealed. Brake checks should include air brakes, parking brakes, and hydraulic braking systems.
- Inspect tires to make sure you have an acceptable amount of tire tread for safe operation. There should be no cuts, bubbles, or gouges. There should be no foreign objects, such as stones or large debris, between the wheels and no space between tires and rims. Also, be sure to check and maintain the appropriate air pressure.
- Regardless of tire condition, you also need to check the lug nuts. Tighten any loose wheel fasteners.
- Check the lights, warning lights, head lights, taillights and turn signals to insure they are working properly, and lenses are clean for maximum visibility.
- It is important to make sure the horn is working as it is used to warn others of the vehicle's approach or presence, or to call attention to some hazards.
- Check coupling system and pay particular attention to your kingpin and the sliding fifth wheel locking pin. Then check the other components that connect your trailer to your cab, including air lines, apron, electrical connections, gap, glad hands, locking jaws, mounting bolt, platform, release arm, skid plate.
- Ensure loads are secure and in place. Decks must be kept free of gravel, mud, loose branches, and any other debris.

Driving a truck is one of the most dangerous occupations so a pre-trip inspection checklist helps keep drivers safe. Your inspection is important to ensure safety, maintenance, and procedures are followed to help mitigate accidents (some fatal) and liability.



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Lockout/Tagout – LOTO Toolbox Talk

The purpose of equipment Lockout/ Tag-out procedures is to prevent an injury to employees when working on equipment and tools that may be energized or have stored energy. Injury or death could result from unexpected motion or contact with energized circuits if lockout/tagout procedures are not followed.

Safe work Practice

1. Personnel must be trained to perform lockout/tagout procedures, and they must have access to lockout tags and lock out devices.
2. Lock-out / Tag-out procedures requires hazardous energy sources be 'isolated and rendered inoperative' before any work can begin;
3. It should also be understood the purpose of the procedure is to alert other employees as to the status of any piece of equipment being worked on;
4. Employees shall:
 - a. ALWAYS refer to the manufacturer's operating manual to identify the type and magnitude of the energy that the machine or equipment utilizes;
 - b. Understand the hazards of the energy;
 - c. Follow all prescribed methods and/ or procedures in controlling the energy.
5. When equipment lockout/ tag-out devices are in place, no employee shall remove the devices that are affixed by another employee unless authorized.

Lockout Tagout Best Practice

1. Find the procedure to be used specific to the machinery/equipment that will be worked on.
2. Notify anyone affected by the lockout/tagout.
3. Locate all listed energy sources that need to be isolated
4. Shut down the machinery or equipment and this will be listed in the lockout/tagout procedure and should detail the exact actions.
5. Lockout and tag all energy isolating devices using the lock and tags assigned to you. No one else should remove these except a direct supervisor in extreme circumstances and generally this requires approval.
6. Release any stored energy (steam, hydraulics etc.) Make sure the area is clear before releasing any stored energy.
7. Operate control to test disconnects, the machine or equipment should not operate.
8. Return controls to off position so that the machine or equipment won't start when any energy sources are reconnected. You can now work on the machinery or equipment.

NOTE: If more than one person is involved in maintaining or servicing the machine or equipment, each person must attach their own lock or tag to the energy isolated device.



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Log Hauling during Winter

When fall is changing to winter, weather conditions change from wet too slippery and icy. Forestry workers must be especially careful on isolated access roads. Being aware of your location and communicating with other drivers is crucial to prevent tragedy. Typically, when the weather conditions change, we see a rush of incidents.

Stay alert to weather and road conditions

- Snow will build through the season making the roads narrower bringing it to one vehicle space. In winter, drivers must be more attentive to signage and their location on the road, because they don't have the ability to pull over and let someone pass.
- Most access roads have kilometer markers starting at zero, and drivers can communicate their location via two-way radio and say, for example, they are two kilometres in on a specific road.
- A lack of distance markers is a major concern. You might be able to use landmarks or zero out your odometer, but as the season gets busier with a steady stream of haul trucks, it can get quite dangerous, so it is important to have effective communication system between drivers.
- Snow and ice cover can complicate matters and it is crucial to keep windows and side mirrors clean for visibility.
- Cottagers, hunters, and anglers often use logging roads as access routes. Snowmobile trails cross the roads and snowmobiles connect to other routes from one segment of a trail to another. Snowmobilers sometimes use old logging roads as unofficial trails.
- Be alert to your fatigue level. To manage fatigue, drivers can consider taking regular rest stops, eat light meals and drink water. If you feel tired, find a safe area to pull over.

Winter driving tips

- Emergency equipment in your vehicle: candles, matches, flares, non-perishable food items, flashlight, gloves, blankets, shovels
- Travel in winter storms is not recommended
- Snow hampers visibility
- Reduce your speed and leave more space between vehicles
- Always keep lights clear
- Be aware of icy conditions, consider using studded tires or tire chains
- Use extra caution on unsanded stretches of logging roads
- Your vehicle should be reliable, safe, and well-maintained



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Log Loading Safety Tips

All aspects in the forest industry are very dangerous. It is important to be cautious and to stay safe. Log loading is just one of the dangers drivers deal with daily.

- Ensure the loading area is safe and follow the communication system established at the loading site with the loader operator.
- Do not leave the cab of the truck without communication and confirmation with the loader operator. If exiting the vehicle, apply trailer and truck parking (MAXI) brakes. When exiting use 3 points of contact, wearing the required personal protective equipment. The location of the driver must be always known by the loader operator. Stay inside the truck cab or well in the clear, out in front of the unit while being loaded.
- Use caution and communication with the loading operator when coupling the trailer unit.
- Watch the logs being loaded; notify the loader operator right away if you see any improperly placed logs.
- Communicate with the loader operator when the loading is complete and ready to install load wrappers. All logs must be restrained and secured properly.
- Check your weights (air gauges or bunk scales) and observe the area for hazards (like moving equipment, debris, etc.) before throwing wrappers. Use good footing and position while throwing wrapper.
- Do not move the load until the load has proper binders attached. If there is no safe place for the driver to throw the wrappers, then the driver will move to the closest safe place.
- Give notice on proper radio channel that you are leaving the landing and ensure all workers are in the clear before pulling out.
- Re-tighten your wrappers as required on your trip. When out check your load for shifted logs especially before you enter public roads.

Summary

Loading and unloading are critical functions for all Log truck drivers. Following safe work procedures and being aware of hazards are key to keeping safe.

