

LOGGING/FORESTRY SAFETY SERIES

SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS

Photo credit: Cornelis F. de Hoop, PhD

Incident Summary:

Harry, an experienced logger, dismounted his machine around 11:30 a.m. to grab his lunch from his truck. On his way to the truck, he stepped on a 3 inch diameter log. The log rolled and Harry fell backwards. He caught himself with his hands, but the impact of the fall injured his wrists. Harry was in a lot of pain and couldn't drive or operate his machine. Another logger took Harry to the local hospital. The fall broke Harry's right wrist and badly sprained his left wrist. Harry was out of work for 4 weeks.

Discussion Questions:

1. Could this incident have been prevented?
2. Have you ever tripped or fallen on the job? Do you know other people who have fallen on the job?
3. How can slips, trips and falls be prevented?

Take Home Message:

Slips, trips and falls can result in injury, decreased productivity and lost wages. It is not always possible to keep the logging site free from slip/trip/fall hazards. Whenever possible, step over logs and other debris, rather than on top of them.

