

INDUSTRY ALERT

HAZARD

Poorly maintained turntable bearings may break free, toppling knuckleboom loaders

What happened?

Several times this year in logging, the turntable bearing on knuckleboom loaders have broken away, causing the raised platform, operator control seat and boom to fall to the ground, severely injuring the operators. Many forwarders and log truck self-loaders are equipped with such a boom.

Why did it happen?

Investigators found that several bolts securing the turntable bearing to the body of the trailer had been broken for some time, placing strain on the remaining bolts. These bolts eventually broke, causing the loader to fall.

How can it be prevented?

- The equipment should be maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications and inspection schedules.
- If no record has been kept of maintenance work on the equipment and the materials used, bolts and washers should be replaced using material recommended by the manufacturer.
- The operator of the equipment should have the knowledge, training and experience necessary to operate the equipment safely.
- The person who services and maintains the equipment should be aware of the manufacturer's specs and have access to an owner's manual.

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