



Safe Trucking

An incident has occurred in Wales resulting in an HGV overturning on a forest road.

■ Luckily, the driver was not injured and no environmental impact arose as a result of the overturned lorry and thus it is classified as a 'Near Miss'.

The area where this incident took place was relatively newly laid but had become rutted due to usage.

It was a dry day. The road surface was also dry and the driver had over 10 years' experience in the timber haulage industry.

Prior to the incident over 115 lorry loads (over 3000 tonnes of timber) had been hauled along the route. Some observations about wear and tear of the road had been reported but nothing of any significance.

The driver was travelling off to the side of the road to avoid vehicle damage from the ruts.

Investigation indicates that the driver made an error of judgement and was too far off to the side of the road which caused his tractor unit and trailer to become unbalanced and overturn.

Luckily, the driver was not injured and no environmental impact occurred as a result of the overturned lorry.



The vehicle was recovered using two heavy recovery vehicles with winch and pulley systems working to a Dynamic Risk Assessment. The vehicle was not restarted and was towed away on a suspended lift.

Remember:

- If you believe a forest road to be in an unsafe condition stop your vehicle and assess if it is safe to continue – if it is not safe then get help from your employer and Tilhill Forestry contact.
- Forest roads are more susceptible to potholes, ruts and corrugations than other roads as they are generally unsealed.
- Normal wear and tear is to be expected but any unsafe condition must be reported to your Tilhill Forestry contact.
- Use the form at the back of the 'Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice' or an email to provide a written record – photos are also a useful recording method.

Learning Points:

- Do not deviate too far from the crown of the road.
- Dealing promptly with road defects is important, especially as some forest roads are being heavily used.
- It is the responsibility of all road users to report defects as soon as possible before they have become serious enough to make using the road unsafe.

The report must make clear:

- Where and who to report to.
- The information required.
- How replies are handled.
- The responsibilities of the landowner, forestry works manager, contractor and sub-contractor.

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FIRE RISK!

We have already seen the damage caused by fire at some of our properties in the last few weeks.

■ This risk is rising further as sites are becoming even drier as we head towards Summer. The long-range weather forecast is predicting dry and hot spells in the coming months. This is not only a risk for the machinery and the operators but also for the forest itself, wildlife and our forest owners.

Forest fires can sometimes be initiated by forestry machinery catching fire as a result of the belly pans being full of dried forest residue or from oil leaks.

Ask your Forestry/Harvesting Manager for a copy of the 'Tilhill Forestry – Fire Guidance Booklet' ([GN/51](#)).

The following website also gives guidance on preventing wild fires:

www.firescotland.gov.uk/yoursafety/wildfires.aspx

Remember:

- Keep the belly pans cleared out on a regular basis.
- Check hoses, connectors etc have been refitted after servicing/maintenance.
- Check your fire suppressant system and fire extinguishers are fully serviceable. Your insurance company could refuse to pay if you are unable to demonstrate routine maintenance in line with manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure that you have a fully serviced fire extinguisher available in the cab where you have to pass the engine unit to exit the cab.



Above and below: One of the devastating fires we have experienced at a managed property this year affecting our North Highland District.



Tick Tock, Tick Tock

The time for ticks has come round again. As we enter this year's tick season, and are starting to receive reports of tick bites, it's worth reminding everyone of some important information around reducing the risk of tick bites and what to do if you are bitten.

■ It continues to be important for the company to build up a picture of our exposure to ticks and tick bites so please continue to report all bites and incidents where we have ticks on clothing etc.

For our manager's it's important to categorise the reports consistently:

- Tick bites should be recorded as Accidents – Minor.
- Ticks on clothing or body should be recorded as a Near Miss – H&S Near Miss (no injury).

Check the following before you visit a site:

- You are carrying repellent spray.
- You use gaiters or tuck your trousers in your sock.
- Please ensure you have a Tick Twister available at all times. If you don't have one then ask your Tilhill Forestry manager to supply them.

A website (www.fleatickrisk.com) provides a useful facility (including a user friendly app) which gives you an indicator of the risk of ticks based on location, time of year and current weather conditions.

Tilhill Forestry has produced guidance on ticks, preventing tick bites, safe removal of ticks and potential infections. Just ask your Tilhill manager for details or download from the following links.

Related Documents

Guidance Note Ticks and Diseases ([GN/83](#))

Ticks and Diseases – Top Tips ([REF/33](#))

Ticks and Diseases – UK Tick Species ([REF/32](#))

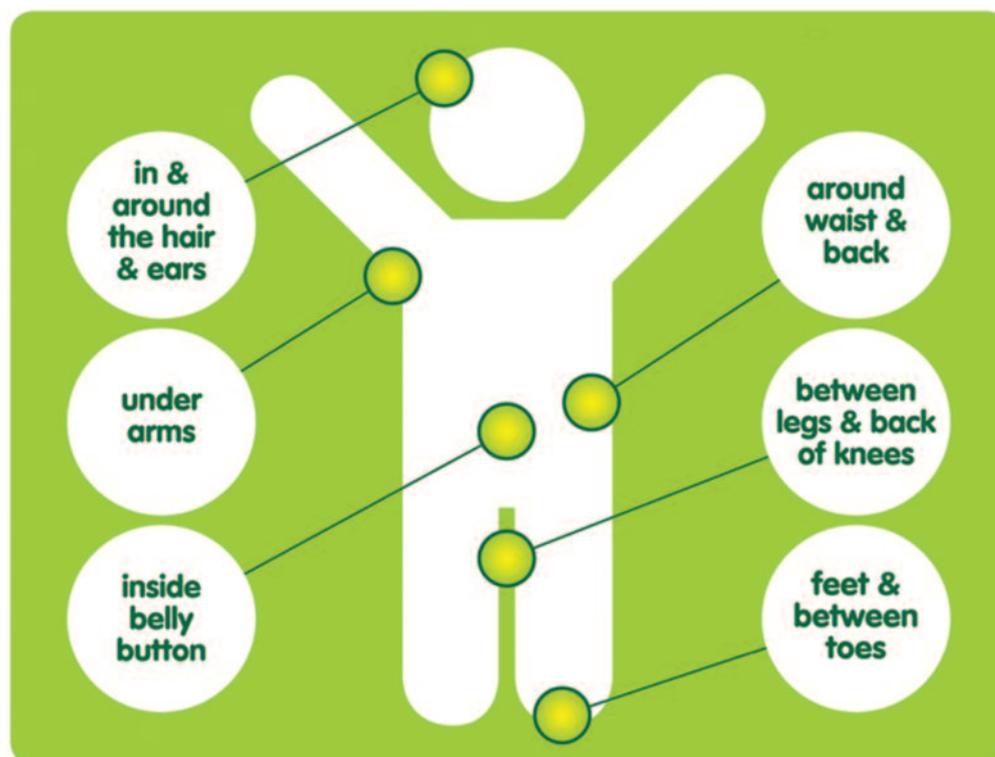
Ticks and Diseases – Myth Busting ([REF/31](#))

Remember:

Do the tick check:

- Check the whole body. It may be helpful to use a mirror to inspect areas that are hard to see.
- Ticks prefer warm, moist, dark areas of the body.
- Ticks preferred areas include:
 - Hidden in: belly button, around or in the ear, hairline and scalp.
 - Parts that bend: back of knee, elbow, between fingers and toes, underarms.
 - Pressure points where clothing presses against skin such as underwear elastic, belts, collar.

Diagram © Forestry and Land Scotland



Keep it Tidy

Much of our work in forestry is about looking after the land on behalf of our clients, ensuring that the property is well managed and maintained, being alert for issues on site such as trespass and potential for damage, including fire risk and theft of equipment.

Waste attracts waste

In the news last month a 40% increase in fly-tipping was reported. Waste attracts waste. If we leave sites untidy with waste that is left for too long after work is completed then we run the risk of attracting further waste through fly-tipping on site and other associated issues.

Waste from our operations and the importance of good 'housekeeping'

Waste from forestry and harvesting activities on our sites includes oil and fuel drums, waste oil, filters, plastic tree bags, old fencing materials and so on.

It is not often we see waste left on our sites, but when it does get left it has the potential to cause serious incidents. Plastic bags left on site further pollute our environment, they can contribute to blocking culverts resulting in flooding.

Waste left on site can also pose a risk to wildlife, livestock and other animals.



The photo provided below shows a nail penetrating a horse's hoof picked up on a bridlepath running through a woodland. This wasn't one of our sites but it illustrates the inadvertent consequences of poor housekeeping on a site following fencing activities. An incident such as this can result in significant veterinary costs, with the horse possibly having to be put down.

Waste Duty of Care

There is a raft of legal requirements concerning waste management and 'duty of care' requirements.

Anyone producing waste must take all reasonable steps to:

- Prevent unauthorised disposal of waste.
- Store waste securely to prevent spread or contamination.
- Make sure that anyone receiving waste is authorised to take it.
- Make sure that waste type is accurately described. For example, is it hazardous or non-hazardous waste (called special waste in Scotland)?

It is a criminal offence not to comply with these basic waste duty of care requirements. Significant penalties and fines can be applied where waste duty of care is not met.

We all have a part to play in making sure our sites are well maintained with waste promptly removed and good housekeeping applied to ensure waste isn't left or poorly stored and allowed to blow away.



Old wire and other metals should be promptly removed from site.

continued

Keep it Tidy – continued



Old pipework left on site will encourage flytipping.

Remember:

- Store waste safely and securely on our sites.
- Make sure you know whether waste is hazardous or non-hazardous*
- Move waste promptly off site once work is completed.
- If you are carrying waste you must be registered as a waste carrier.
- Waste must only be taken to an authorised site (one which has a permit or waste management licence or appropriate exemption*).
- If you see waste left on site please contact the relevant Tilhill Forestry manager.

*Tilhill Forestry managers should refer to Arrangements for Waste (AR/21) for correct classification of waste, appropriate codes to use for waste transfer and consignment documentation and how to check if a site is authorised to take waste.

Feeling the Burn?

As we approach the hopefully sunny summer we should start to consider the risk of sun exposure and skin cancer. I'm sure almost all of us will apply the sun lotion while on holiday, but how many of us working outside will do so while at work?

■ Getting painful sunburn just once every two years can triple the risk of the most deadly form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the world. It's also the easiest to avoid – 90 per cent of all skin cancer deaths could be prevented if sun exposure is controlled.

Remember:

CHECK YOUR SKIN REGULARLY FOR THE TELL-TALE SIGNS OF CANCER:

- Changes to moles – shape, edges, colour or size.
- A new mole, patch of skin or growth appears.
- A sore that doesn't heal up.
- A spot, mole or sore that hurts or is itchy.
- A mole or growth that bleeds, crusts or scab.

How is Sun Exposure Dangerous?

Rays from the sun include ultraviolet radiation – it's these rays that cause premature ageing, wrinkles and skin cancer. People who work outside are at much higher risk of getting skin cancer. Indoor workers receive less than 20 per cent of outdoor workers' yearly exposure of ultraviolet radiation.

For more information visit the HSE website or IOSH's 'No Time To Lose' web pages www.notimetolose.org.uk

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT SUN EXPOSURE

- 'If it's cloudy, the sun can't damage my skin'
- 'If it's not very hot, the sun doesn't affect me'
- 'I'm already tanned so I'm safe from sun damage'

These myths are WRONG:

- Dangerous sun rays penetrate through cloud cover and are not linked to temperature.
- A tan doesn't protect you from skin cancer – and it means you're already damaging your skin.



June 2019 – Safety & Assurance Bulletin briefing

I have been personally briefed in the contents of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin.

Please add any questions relating to this briefing or any other health, safety and environmental matters you wish to raise:

Please add any suggestions on health, safety and environmental matters:

I have been briefed by: _____ My District is: _____

I understand that I am encouraged to submit comment and contribution from this bulletin.

Signed: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

ORIGINAL sheet to be held at District.

Send a **COPY** to: Head of Safety, Tilhill Forestry, Kings Park House, Laurelhill, Stirling, FK7 9NS.
Fax: 01786 435001. Email: ios@tilhill.com

Contractors: If you would like your own copy of this Safety & Assurance Bulletin please contact your local office and ask to be included on the mailing list.