

# Log Stack on Steep Slope Warning

**A recent near miss involving a Tilhill Forestry manager gave us a stark reminder of the hazards and risks while working on steep slopes.**

■ At the time of the near miss, the manager was checking the measurements and specification of some recently felled timber on a steep slope.

He was standing above the rack of logs turning a 3.1m log by hand, checking for crook. As he turned the log it subsequently dislodged two other 3.1m logs below. These then rolled a couple of metres and stopped.

These logs had the potential to continue to roll downhill which may have caused damage or serious injury to personnel or machinery. Fortunately, in this instance, the logs stopped on their route downhill and no one was working or passing below at the time of the incident. It is important to always

consider the slope when planning activities on this type of work site.



Above: Slope where near miss occurred.



Above: Log stack from which the log rolled.

## Learning Points:

1. Gravity is a primary source of hazardous energy when working on steep slopes.
2. Logs, rocks or other material can be easily dislodged and roll down the slope.
3. Recently felled and slippery logs, stacked together, pose the greatest risk.

## Remember:

- When working on very steep ground consider the risk of logs, rocks etc. being dislodged.
- When working on steep slopes the risk zone is increased, ensure that the risk of logs dislodging and rolling down the slope is assessed.
- Never access or work below unstable logs, rocks, or other material. If it is unclear what is holding a log, then assume it can move at any time.

## CONTENTS

- Drivers – Beware the Cyclist. .2
- Lone Working Risk Mitigation. .3
- Responsibilities Defined . . . .4

# Drivers – Beware the Cyclist

**A near miss incident was reported in respect of a cyclist and a haulage contractor delivering timber into Shotton at the time.**

■ In this instance the haulage driver pulled across the weighbridge road in front of an oncoming cyclist (who had the right of way). Fortunately, the cyclist managed to stop and prevent an accident from occurring.

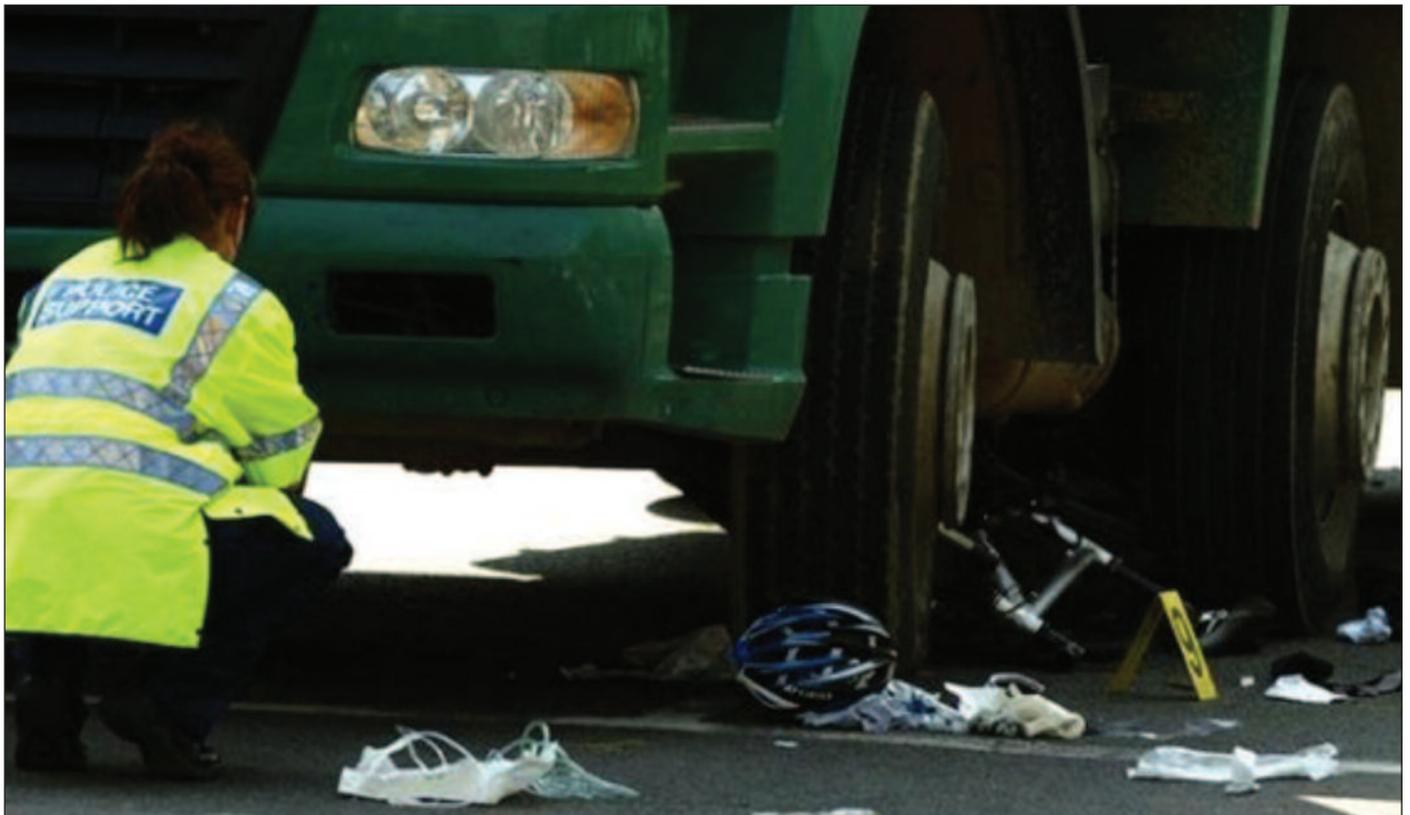
It is important that all road users respect each other and follow the Highway Code. As the nights draw in it is vital that cyclists are seen and that drivers pay more attention to other road users.

Cycling is becoming more popular as a means of not only getting to and from the work place but also as a leisure

activity. Some 80% of cyclists hold a driving licence and 1 in 5 drivers cycle at least once a month.

Cyclists' collisions with HGVs are also far more likely to prove fatal than those involving cars: the cyclist is killed in about a fifth of serious injury cyclist/HGV collisions, compared with around 2% for cyclists/car collisions.

Most of the collisions between cyclists and HGVs occur during lorry manoeuvres and/or at junctions, with the most serious risk to pedestrians and cyclists coming from the largest, heaviest vehicles that seat the driver high up and provide only limited 'direct vision' from the cab. This is especially the case with HGVs used on off-road sites.



**DRIVERS AND CYCLISTS ARE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU THINK – LET'S LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER**

**Remember:**

- Look twice for each other when turning or at junctions.
- Signal your intentions so that the other road users can react.
- Give cyclists space and remember that cyclists are advised to ride well clear of the kerb to be visible and avoid collisions.
- As a cyclist, stay out of the lorry driver blind spots at the sides of their vehicles. These zones are often signed on the lorries.
- If you are a cyclist ensure you wear hi-visibility clothing when you are cycling on the road.

# Lone Working Risk Mitigation

**Lone workers are not necessarily always those working alone in remote locations. A lone worker can be a person who performs an activity in isolation from other workers without close or direct supervision.**

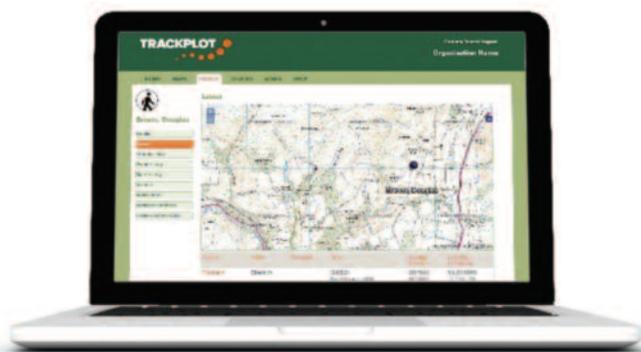
■ Over the past few months Tilhill Forestry has seen an increase in operative's lone working some of whom haven't considered themselves as lone workers.

It is important that regular communication takes place between workers on site if they are working in isolation to each other. There are 3 main types of monitoring systems available to be used:

1. **Buddy System:** Make sure you have a buddy – if there are two of you on site agree a communication method:
  - a. This can be a regular phone call or contact via a hand-held radio.
  - b. If you haven't heard from your buddy at the agreed time try to contact them.
  - c. Meet up at lunch breaks or at the end of the day to ensure everyone is fit and well.
2. **Mobile Phone:** Use a mobile phone monitoring system:
  - a. These systems are a more formalised method of the buddy communication method as they have defined regular 'check in' times with fail safes built in.
  - b. They also have SOS options that send a help message to the emergency services without the need to dial 999 and/or messages someone on site.
3. **GPS:** Use a GPS monitoring system:
  - a. GPS systems are similar to the mobile phone monitoring system but work in areas where there is a poor mobile phone signal.
  - b. They also have an SOS button for emergencies.

The most suitable control measure for lone working will be identified on your risk assessment. Tilhill work in conjunction with a company called Trackplot when a GPS or mobile phone monitoring system is identified as the most suitable control measure. Trackplot have recently agreed to work with Tilhill approved contractors following our latest Insist on Safety events.

The Trackplot system will send regular 'check in' and 'check out' messages to an identified buddy. It will also send an overdue message to your buddy to alert them to a late 'check in'.



There are a number of activities that are prohibited for lone workers working on behalf of Tilhill Forestry. These are:

- Use of chainsaws, power pruners or wood chippers.
- Climbing of trees.
- Use of any equipment adjacent to overhead power lines, including pruning or felling.
- Working in defined confined spaces or live electrical work.
- Use of portable ladders that cannot be lashed or secured.
- Work requiring the use of safety harnesses for fall protection plus working from a MEWP.
- Work on or near the railway line, unless LWA qualified and authorised.
- Lifting loads in excess of a person's capability.
- Hand excavating over the line of a known underground cable or adjacent to exposed cables.
- Entry to electrical sub stations and compounds.
- Operating machinery adjacent to live traffic on carriageways or waterways.
- High pressure water jetting.
- Use of motorised winches or mobile/overhead cranes.
- Pesticide application.

## Remember:

- Lone workers are not necessarily those completely alone on site.
- Lone workers are those working without direct or close supervision.
- To always assess the risks of lone workers on site.
- Make sure you have a buddy and you keep in touch with each other.
- Consider communication techniques including mobile phone or GPS monitoring systems.

# Whose Responsibility Is It?

## Warnings of torrential rain, strong winds and disruption as Storm Ali swept across the country drew an end to September.

■ At the same time, Tilhill Forestry received increased reports of potential pollution issues across our sites. Many of the issues reported were avoidable and occurred when:

- Work started without an agreed method statement.
- Information about the site was poorly communicated.
- Regular checks on control measures were not taken.
- Developing problems were not reported and quickly acted on.

Storms bringing heavy rain, and with them the increased risk of pollution, will be more frequent as we head into the autumn months.

## REMEMBER YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

### Forest Works Managers

Remember to always:

- Communicate information on site constraints.
  - A Hazard and Constraints map clearly marked is essential.
- Agree controls measures with Contractors:
  - Silt traps, filter zones etc.
  - Protect private water supplies.
  - Emergency preparedness requirements.
- Check that agreed controls are put in place and remain in place as work continues.
- Make sure action is taken when controls start to fail or conditions change.

### Contractors

You must:

- Work with the Forest Works Manager to plan for protection.
  - Suitable location for log bridges, extraction or access routes.
- Never start work without a clear hazard and constraints map, work instruction or method statement.
- Brief all site operatives, make sure everyone is aware of the requirements for preventing pollution.

- Check that agreed controls are put in place and remain in place, especially as site conditions or operators change on site.

### Operators

It is your responsibility to:

- Keep an eye out for developing problems.
  - Check watercourses from time to time for first signs of siltation.
- Report issues on site early on especially when weather gets bad on site.

**STOP, THINK and ACT when problems start to develop and before a pollution incident happens.**

**We all have responsibilities on forestry sites to protect our environment.**

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES.

Our Environment Manager Nicola Abbatt has been working with others in the industry to draft industry-wide guidelines for roles and responsibilities for environmental protection in forestry work.

The guide builds on roles set out in FISA's Managing Health and Safety in Forestry to provide information to help deliver responsibilities as well as meet legal protection requirements.

This guide includes information for Contractors, Forest Works Managers and Landowners and underlines the need for good communications between all involved in the work.

A draft was on display at APF in the Confor stand. If you didn't see it at the Show then you can also find it on our website ([www.tilhill.com/about-us/safety-assurance](http://www.tilhill.com/about-us/safety-assurance)).

Have your say on this draft by emailing [safety@tilhill.com](mailto:safety@tilhill.com), or passing feedback directly to a Tilhill manager as part of this briefing.





# October 2018 – 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](mailto: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.