



## Logging truck driver crushed between truck and skidder



### INCIDENT

A 44-year-old logging truck driver was killed when he was crushed between his truck and a skidder.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

The driver was unable to negotiate a bulldozed track with his loaded truck and called on a skidder to tow the unit up the slope onto firm ground.

The skidder operator was reversing his machine down the slope to attach a chain to the rig when it slipped out of reverse gear. He applied the brakes but they failed.

The skidder slipped back down the hill and crushed the logging truck driver against the bull-bars of his truck.

### INVESTIGATION

The investigation determined that a mechanical failure in the skidder was a key contributing factor in this accident.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ADVICE

Never stand behind any vehicle being backed up. Mechanical failure and driver error are both risks to be aware of.

*Note: This material has been prepared using the best information available to the Department of Labour at the time of publication. Information may change over time and it may be necessary for you to obtain an update. This material is also only intended to provide general advice and does not constitute legal advice. You should make your own judgement about action you may need to take to ensure you have complied with your workplace health and safety obligations under the law.*

