

ENTERING AND EXITING

COMMUNICATION:

When drivers are entering mills or wood roads it is important that communication tools are utilized. Drivers need to use radios to communicate with equipment operators and other drivers when entering and exiting mills with roads and landing zones. In the south cell phones can be used to perform this task, where in the North CB radios are more frequently used for communication. Designated channels for communication are displayed on signs when entering mills and wood roads. It is important to check your radios prior to going into one of these areas to ensure you will be able to communicate when needed. On wet roads there are mile markers, when coming to a mile marker a driver needs to use the radio to communicate what mile marker they are at. Communication is also needed is when a driver is backing up to be loaded. The equipment operator of the loading machine either at the mill or in the woods will be communicating with the driver on the radio. Radio communication prevents hazards in the mill and in the woods. It is an important safety device that drivers need to use.

SIGNALS:

Drivers need to use their turn signals when entering and exiting wood roads and the mill. Depending on the speed you will need to use your turn signal at various distances. For instance, on the highway you would want to use your turn signal 500 feet prior to your turn. If you're in town or on a slower road you would want to use your turn signal 100 feet before your turn. It is important to leave your turn signals on while you are turning it is equally important to remember to turn off your turn signals once you have made your turn to avoid confusion. At times drivers will need to understand hand signals. Hand signals can be used at the Mill when unloading logs and when backing up trailers.

Hand signals that are used at various Mills will be included in their safety and qualification packages for wood suppliers. Often when CB radios and other devices are not working properly, equipment operators and drivers must resort to using hand signals. It is always important to keep the people giving the hand signals in sight. If a driver loses sight of a person providing him signals it is important to stop movement immediately.

SPEED:

Speeding on wood roads and at mills can cause fatal accidents. It is very important for the safety of yourself and those who are working around you to follow posted speed limits. As a driver you need to be prepared to stop at any time at the mill or on wood roads. There are multiple hazards when entering mills and wood roads. These include hills, curves, pedestrians, equipment, trains, and poor road conditions. As a driver you can prevent unnecessary accidents by following posted speeds, being prepared to stop, being prepared to pull over and being aware of the public.

CHECKING YOUR LOAD:

When entering or exiting a mill or wood road it is important to check your load. Before exiting you want to ensure your load is tight, properly loaded, inspect load securement devices, secure the load, check overhang, ensure lights are visible, and place flags at the end of the load. When entering a mill, it is important to stop at the gate to get a pass, stop at the scale house, and weigh your load. When you're exiting the mill, it is important to weigh out the truck and trailer.

CLEARING DEBRIS:

Before leaving unloaded or loaded it is important to ensure you are not going to create an accident from debris flying off your trailer, rig or load. Once you have been loaded, you will want to trim branches and limbs that are sticking out. You will want to take a good look at your overhang to see if it's within your limits and to check your lights to see if they are visible to a vehicle following you. If not, you will want to trim the length of your load. It is against the law to obscure rear trailer lights or to have longer than legal loads. Prior to exiting a landing zone and entering a public roadway, a driver needs to remove and clean debris from the rig's tires and light. Prior to exiting a mill, drivers want to clean debris prior to entering public roads. Mills have designated areas for clearing debris from your rig. Check with the scale house to see where this area is located.

STOWING YOUR GEAR:

Load securement devices are important tools used to secure your load. It is important when you have unbound your load that you ensure these tools are safely stored on your rig.

EXITING AND ENTERING SAFETY TIPS:

Here are some quick safety tips to remember when you are exiting and entering Mills Landing zones and wood roads. drivers need to use their turn signals prior to their turn, during their turn and just after their turn.

Drivers need to check traffic before pulling out into traffic and stay in their proper lane of travel. Drivers need to provide right of way when necessary. right away is necessary for pedestrians, train and equipment. Drivers need to remember to pull over to the right and slow down and stop when a vehicle is encroaching on their Lane. Drivers are pulling out into traffic it is important to not pull out if it is going to mean that another vehicle needs to change or speed or Direction. There are many other tips out there on how to prevent accidents from entering and exiting Mills Landing zones and Wood roads. Maybe you can share some of those now if you are taking a classroom training or maybe discuss them in your next safety meeting. Regardless, it is important to remember that there are ways to prevent accidents when entering and exiting Mills Landing zones and wood roads.