

HAZARD CONTROL



PROBLEM: Ongoing incidents in the industry relating to slippery stems and logs causing incidents, near hits and property damage encouraged our business to look into better controls for us in the way we deal with shoveling stems that are approaching our skids, especially on slopes. Even minor slopes in the sap season can prove to be a significant hazard with stems still able to reach high speeds with destructive impact.

SOLUTION: First step is Isolation, **Photo #1** in this particular scenario with two sloped guts meeting with our skid we were able to move processing and Q.C areas a safe distance away from incoming stems, when the Processor finishes one area and is ready to move, shoveling ceases and shoveling machine moves back to the other area and continues when clear of machines and personnel.

Second step is control, even with hazard isolated and workers in safe areas you can still run into issues with logs hitting log stacks causing instability or even collapsing which is also a hazard and can cause log quality issues with splits and shatters. **Photo #2** shows the stems above excavator placed on an angle running into the bank so they cannot continue down slope without assistance. Stems are then uplifted one by one by an experienced Operator in the correct position so he can control each stem letting it slide through grapple until it reaches its resting place on edge of skid and only then letting it go. **NOTE:** Different scenarios equals different solutions but there is always a safe solution with good planning.