Tractor Loader Crashes Into Canyon

A tractor loader was traveling over a log bridge across a canyon when the bridge collapsed under its weight. When the loader fell part way down into the rocky canyon, the operator was thrown off and landed in the creek at the bottom. He was swept downstream and drowned.

This incident is a reminder about checking the condition of all equipment before use, even a log bridge on a remote access road. The bridge collapsed when three log supports broke.

Heavy equipment such as a loader must have a roll over protection system (ROPS) to protect the operator. The driver must also wear a seatbelt to keep him within this protective zone.