

SAFETY ALERT

Swing Yarder Tip-Over During Repositioning

Incident:

A Madill 123 swing yarder tipped over while being shifted with the tower up. During the process the tail was being slightly raised/lowered to help the Felling machine lift the tail over obstructions on the ridge. With over 1000 m of tail rope out, this created load high on the tower. The machine passed its balance point and tipped onto a slash pile. At the time the Guy anchor (which was walking in conjunction with Yarder along the skid/road) was not directly behind the Yarder as there was limited room due to a slash pile.

Key Hazards Identified:

- Shifting yarder with tower raised.
- Tail rope tension/loading applied high on tower.
- Different machine stability.
- Slash limiting machine and support excavator positioning.
- No formal procedure for shifting yarder with tower up.
- Multiple machines and operators working in a dynamic task.



Immediate Safety Message:

Do **not** shift a swing yarder with the tower up unless a move plan and risk assessment has been completed.

Required Controls:

- Complete a **Move Plan / Take 5** before any yarder repositioning.
- Confirm rope tensions, tail rope length, terrain, and machine balance risk.
- Position support excavator directly in line with expected pull where possible.
- Avoid movement of tail rope unless the stability risk has been fully assessed.
- Develop and follow a formal SWP for shifting swing yarders with the tower raised.
- Refresher training for operators on centre of gravity and rope loading effects.

Remember:

A small shift in movement on a long tail rope can create a large force at the top of the tower. Stop, plan, communicate, and reassess before moving.