

IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

SAFETY TRIP STAKE

INFORMATION REVIEWED
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Simple, rugged, safety trip stakes have been observed in Montana. They are of a type made in a local shop. The stakes are released from the opposite side of the truck and thus eliminate dangerous unloading conditions. They appear to be an improvement over stakes held in place by chains alone which sometimes catch, necessitating dangerous manipulations. The stakes observed use a combination of cable and chain to reduce this difficulty.

The log bunk is built of two pieces of I-beam with the flanges welded together. A slot is cut through the web of the top beam near each end (fig. 1). One end of the cable is fastened solid inside the beam and the other end brought out through the slot, around the trip stake, and back into the bunk where a chain is fastened to it. The chain is brought out through a plate welded to the end of the bunk on the opposite side of the truck. This plate has a specially shaped hole as shown in figure 1. Part of the hole fits one link, thus serving as a catch. A ring on the end of the chain prevents it from being pulled entirely into the bunk when the stake on the opposite side swings down.

Two slotted pieces of iron welded to the bunk serve to hold the surplus chain and also act as a secondary safety catch. Stops to hold the stakes upright are welded to the bunk.

The stakes are built of pipe welded to an inverted U-shaped iron as shown. A bolt through the bottom allows the stake to swing out and down when released. On the outside near the top, a half ring is welded to the stake to hold the cable in place. This hastens returning the stakes and chain to the loading position. Use of pipe also permits inserting round stakes, thus increasing the height of loads when hauling small logs.



Figure 1.--Safety trip stake.

The safety trip stake described here embodies several ingenious features. However, it is assumed they are not patented, nevertheless, a prospective builder may need to investigate this point.

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