

# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 41

<b>Date:</b> September 2021	<b>Focus Group:</b> Log Transport Drivers
<b>Topic:</b> Securing the Load	<b>Issued by:</b> Nic Steens

**Background and Incident:** A driver was racking-down the first bunk on the trailer when he slipped. The twitch slipped out of the extension bar and hit the driver on the cheek.

**Injury Details:** Contusion on the driver's cheek, however, no damage to his teeth or jaw and no concussion. He was unable to see out of one eye due to significant swelling – LTI.

**Risk Awareness:** The purpose of 'racking-down' is to achieve maximum tension on the load to prevent logs from moving or slipping off the bunk during transit. That tension is applied through the twitch, including a safety extension bar (cheater), and is held by the chains in the locking mechanism. A spring-loaded twitch can cause serious damage to the driver if it suddenly releases, and the driver is standing in the wrong position.

**Safe Behaviours:** Ensure the chain has good alignment with the anchorage point – as close as possible to the stanchion arm and touching as many of the logs on top of the load as practicable. Pull the chain 'hand-tight' and ensure any twists are removed. Drivers are encouraged to use an LTSC approved safety extension (cheater) bar on the twitch while tensioning the load. If a bar is made specifically for a truck, ensure that the two properly match up. Also, ensure you are not standing directly over the twitch when tensioning the load; stand to either side especially when releasing and take care when removing the bar. If a belly chain is required, then follow the same procedure, but ensure the chain is in the centre of the load before tensioning. Ensure your footing is firm – many injuries result when the driver slips and loses control of the twitch.

**For Site Manager:**

Print and complete the following:

1. Discuss with employees/operators:
2. Place on site notice board or in file:

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /  
(initials)

