

# HAZARD ALERT

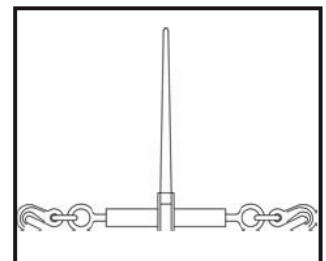
## LOAD BINDER SAFETY

*A log truck driver was waiting in line to cross the scales and was removing his load binders when a log fell off and struck him. He suffered bruising to his lower back.*

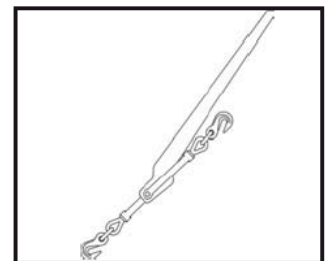
Load binders are valuable construction tools, however, there are safety hazards that may arise with their misuse. There are two types of load binders: ratchet type binders and lever type binders. There are fewer hazards associated with using ratchet-type binders when compared to lever-type binders.

### Recommended Preventive Action

- All employees who use load binders should be given written procedures along with training on their proper use.
- Routinely check load binders for wear, bending, and cracks. Do not use the load binder if bending or cracks are present.
- Look up and inspect the load before removing straps and ask for help if any pieces are in danger of falling.
- Do not operate a load binder while you or someone else is standing on the load.
- Position the load binder so it can be operated from the ground, and ensure your footing is secure.
- Move the handle with caution using an open hand, as the handle may whip. Keep your body clear.
- Never use a cheater pipe or handle extender to tighten or release a load.
- Do not attempt to close or open the binder with more than one person.
- When applying a lever type load binder, always position the load binder so the handle is tightened in a downward manner.
- Protect the edges of the load binder from direct contact with sharp edges or abrasive surfaces.
- While under tension, a load binder must not bear against an object as it will cause side load.
- During and after tightening, check the load binder handle position. Be sure it is in the locked position. For lever type load binders, the bottom side should touch the tie-downs.



Ratchet Type



Lever Type