

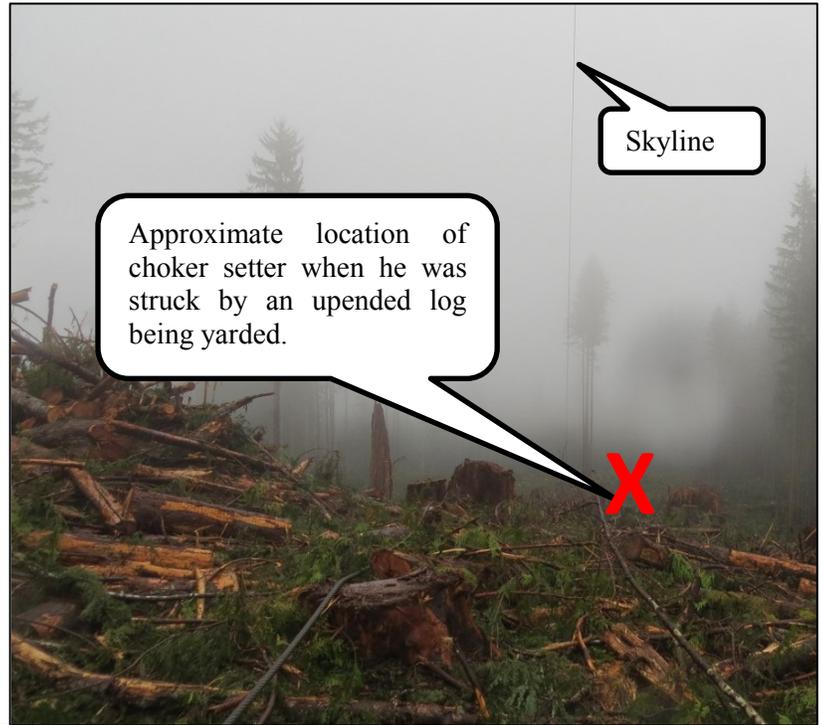
Choker Setter Injured When Struck by Log

Task: Pre-setting chokers

Occupation: Choker setter

Release Date: 2014

On March 25, 2014, a 41-year-old choker setter pre-setting chokers was seriously injured when he was struck by a log being yarded. A four-man rigging crew with a rigging slinger and three choker setters were working on a 30-degree slope about 500 feet from the landing. The choker setters were on one side of the skyline and the rigging slinger was on the other side. After the crew had rigged a three-log turn, the choker setters began pre-setting chokers for the next turn. The rigging slinger gave the go-ahead signal and the yarder operator began moving the turn to the landing. Two of the choker setters were not in the clear of the turn. As the turn moved uphill, one of the logs in the turn upended and swung toward them. One choker setter dived under the moving log; the other choker setter was struck in the hip by the log and was seriously injured.



Safety Requirements

During yarding operations:

- Employees must move away from the turn so as to be above or behind the turn in the clear. They must remain on their feet and face the turn before the go-ahead signal is given. See WAC 296-54-577(5).

Recommended Safe Practices

- Before starting pre-setting operations at a new site, the employer, jobsite supervisor, or hooktender must develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting chokers will be conducted in a safe manner.
- The rigging slinger must ensure that all members of the crew are in the clear before giving the go-ahead signal.
- Before giving the go-ahead signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all members of the crew are in the clear.
- Choker setters must not set their chokers until a turn clears their area and they are in the clear.
- Remember it's never you until it is – keep the team safe by reporting hazards.

Resources*

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at: www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov
- Free video from Labor & Industries, “Be Safe in the Woods” at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/shrl/VideoDetails.aspx?VideoID=1490>
- Accident Prevention Program for Logging Operations. Washington State Logger Safety Initiative at: www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSILoggingOperationsSampleAPP.doc

*These internet links have been shortened for publication and will not operate in your web browser as written. To access these resources, please go to the SHARP publications page at www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Pubs/, click on *Logging*, open this document and follow the links from there. Prepared by Randy Clark, WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant# 5 U60 OH008487-09).

