



WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

Safety Alert: Early Return-to-Work teams

August 4, 2014

Did you know that L&I has teams that can help collaborate with the employer, health-care provider, and worker to explore possibilities for returning to work as early as it is medically appropriate?

Members of the Early Return-to-Work (ERTW) teams are vocational, occupational therapy, and nurse consultants. They are trained professionals who know how to talk with providers and help employers implement medically appropriate return-to-work options.

ERTW staff can work with employers on the entire light-duty process, for example, looking at ways to modify the job and how to write light or modified job descriptions to fit medical restrictions.

ERTW staff will work with employers to take advantage of other resources and services that are appropriate for an injured employee. Some services available are:

- **Job modification Benefits:** An occupational therapist from L&I may assess whether a modification could help employees return to work earlier. Modifications include adjustments to the work site or tools or equipment that allow the employee to work within his/her limitations. Job modification funds from L&I may be available too. These funds help an employer cover the costs of job modification to allow an injured worker to return to his or her original job.
- **Risk Management Services:** ERTW can assist by making a referral to a risk management specialist who can meet with the employer to help them develop return-to-work tools and explain other strategies to minimize workers' compensation costs and premiums.
- **Stay at Work:** ERTW can assist in gaining access to stay at work benefits through the Washington Stay at Work program. Stay at Work is a financial incentive that encourages employers to bring their injured workers quickly and safely back to light-duty or transitional work by reimbursing them for some of their costs.

If you have an employee who is off work due to a work-related injury or occupational illness, contact the Early Return-to-Work team in the L&I Office nearest to you: See next page

Region	Location	Contact Number
Region 1	Bellingham	360-647-7300
Region 1	Everett	425-290-1300
Region 1	Mt. Vernon	360-416-3000
Region 2	Bellevue	425-990-1400
Region 2	Seattle	206-515-2800
Region 2	Tukwila	206-835-1000
Region 3	Bremerton	360-415-4000
Region 3	Port Angeles	360-417-2700
Region 3	Tacoma	253-596-3800
Region 4	Aberdeen	360-533-8200
Region 4	Kelso	360-575-6900
Region 4	Tumwater	360-902-5799
Region 4	Vancouver	360-896-2300
Region 5	E. Wenatchee	509-886-6500
Region 5	Kennewick	509-735-0100
Region 5	Moses Lake	509-764-6900
Region 5	Yakima	509-454-3700
Region 6	Pullman	509-334-5296
Region 6	Spokane	509-324-2600