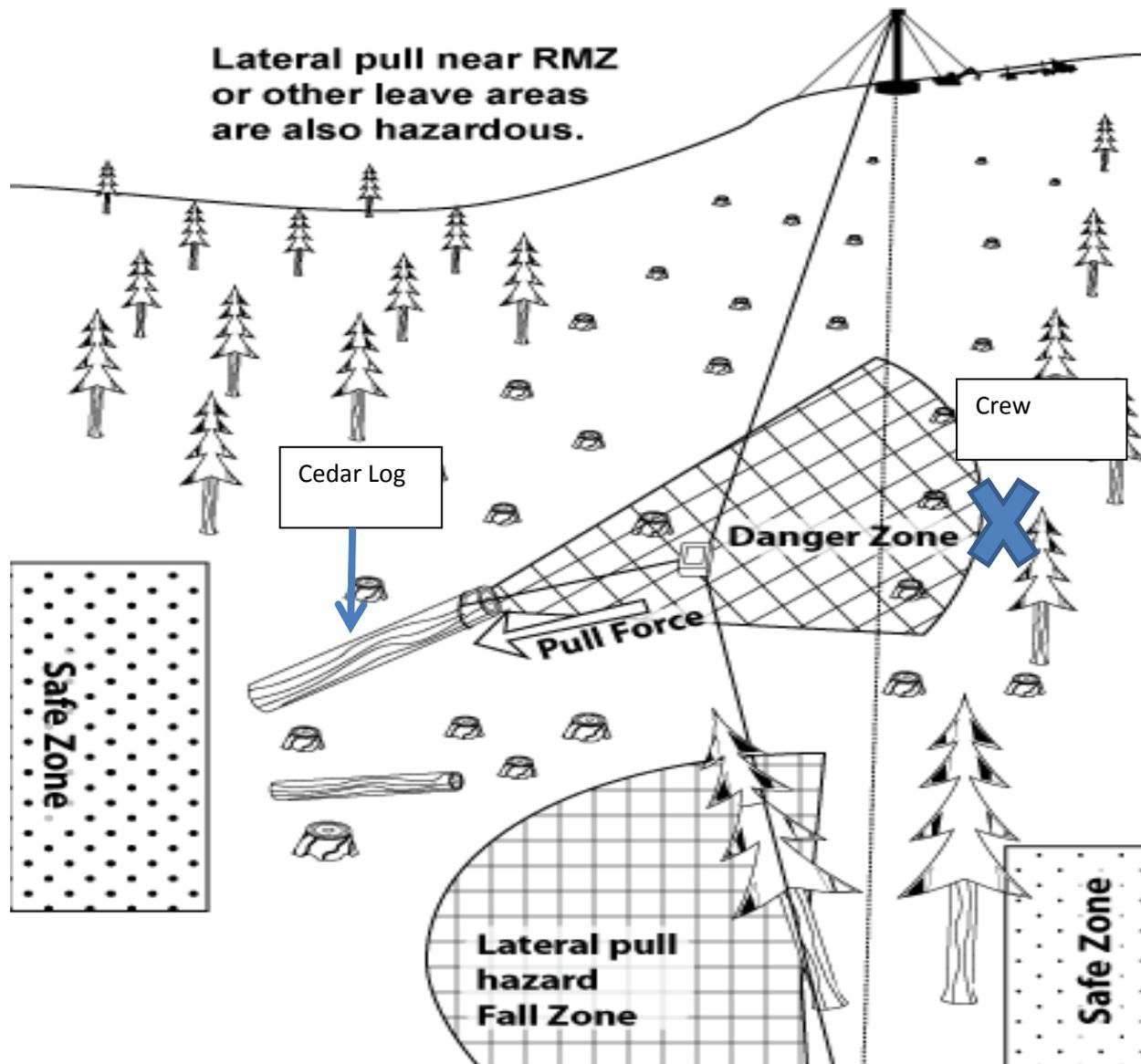


Lateral Pulls

In June 2014, a rigging slinger with four years of experience was seriously injured after being struck by the skyline. The crew was lateral yarding about 200 feet off the side of the skyline with a Bowman carriage. They cleared out on the opposite side of the skyline on the uphill side of the turn. The turn consisted of one large-diameter cedar. When the rigging slinger went ahead on the turn, the choker broke and they retreated further up the hill in an attempt to avoid the whipping action of the skyline. The rigging slinger was struck in the hip and leg by the skyline.

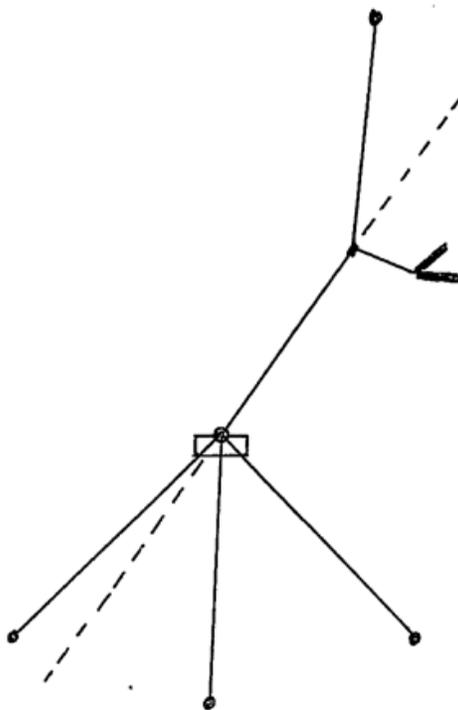


Prior to having long lateral pulls, ensure the crew understands the associated hazards. If the hook tender knows there is going to be a wide road or long pulls on the job, include this in your pre-job safety meeting. In the above instance, the crew correctly cleared out on the uphill side but failed to identify the potential hazard of lateral pulling. Other hazards associated with lateral pulls are pulling standing trees over and yarding outside of your guy line circles.

During lateral pulls, make sure to:

- Clear out so you will not be struck by whipping actions of lines or logs.
- Watch standing timber that may receive pressure from the skyline.
- Avoid choking turns outside of the guy line circle.

If you are lateral yarding with a motorized carriage and you are already near the outer limit of your yarding window, you could pull the skyline past the outer limit to where the guy line layout is no longer appropriate for the yarding direction (see illustration).



The turn is outside of the guy lines and has the potential to pull the yarder over.