



WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

Pre-setting chokers

- When pre-setting chokers, ensure that safe work practices are being followed.
- Before starting pre-setting operations on a new setting, the employer, jobsite supervisor or hooktender must develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting will be conducted in a safe manner (**see sample plan in Appendix 8**). The safety plan must be reviewed with all rigging crew members. At a minimum, the written plan must address the following:
 - No pre-setting of chokers in areas made unsafe by runaway logs.
 - Do not split crews on the hillside when the ground is so steep that it could send material back down on the lower crew.
 - If the crew is split up on the hillside, the top crew needs to be well in the clear when the turn from the lower crew passes.
 - Workers must remain clear of standing trees and saplings that could be pulled over by lateral yarding; they must also remain clear of upending and swinging logs. Partially pulled over trees must be removed before yarding commences or continues in the hazardous area.
 - Before giving the “go ahead” signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all workers in the near vicinity are in the clear. It is recommended that two-way radios be used to ensure effective communication.
 - Workers pre-setting must be able to hear audible signals.
 - When pre-setting chokers on both sides of the line, there must be at least one signaling device at each location.
 - **Never** cross under or over a yarding line until the line/rigging is stopped.