

WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

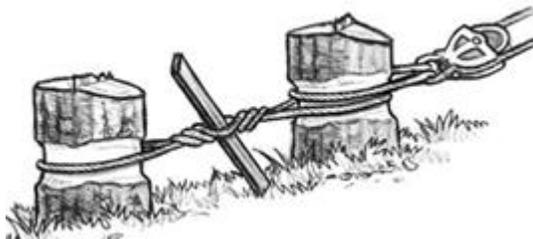
Keeping Washington loggers safe.

October 22, 2014

Safely Working with Twisters

An employee with 18 months of experience chasing and setting chokers assisted the hook tender with applying multiple tie backs (twisters) on a guy-line stump. Although he had logging experience, little time was spent working with twisters. The hook tender went over the plan and each was working on separate stumps.

The employee was working on pulling his fourth turn with the twister stick under the line, which was low to the ground. He did not have a good grip on the stick with one hand before letting it go with the other, and had lost leverage with the stick now being parallel under the line. He lost control of the stick, which resulted in it spinning and hitting him in the lower lip. The injuries required medical attention for his two lower front teeth and stitches in his lower lip.



How could the injury have been prevented?

1. Have two people work together to release the twister.
2. Don't put the twister on too tight.
3. Avoid lining up our body within the "strike zone" in case control is lost when taken off the twister.
4. Train all applicable employees on safe removal of twisters.
5. If possible wear dry gloves.

When removing a twister, if control is lost the stick can spin quickly and strike the individual removing it. If it is placed too tight, there is much more tension on the line and the twister stick will spin many more times. If it is a little looser, the energy will be dissipated after a few spins.

Twister tiebacks only take a few minutes to set up. To do it well, consider the following guidelines:

- Use a good, strong sapling or sturdy limb of sufficient strength, diameter, and length for the twister stick.
- Locate the twister line close to the top of the front anchor, unless there is concern about the roots pulling out while tightening the tieback.
- Notch all anchors to prevent line slippage.
- Wrap a piece of line around the front and back tree, and secure with a timber hitch wrapped under several times. Insert a sturdy stick in the opening created by the line and twist the line over itself until taut. Use a minimum of two wraps. Wedge the stick in the ground so it holds the wrap in the line.
- Make sure that twister stick is long enough to provide good support.