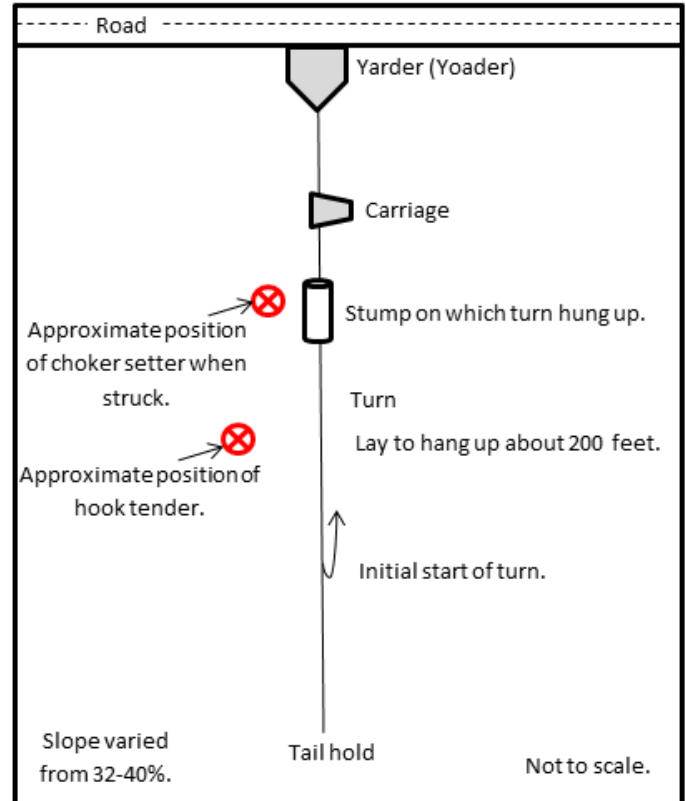


## Choker Setter Struck by Log When Hung up Turn Comes Free

Task: Stringing haywire Occupation: Choker setter/Rigging slinger Release Date: November 2013

A 19-year-old choker setter was struck by a log after a turn hung up on a stump came loose. The victim had about three months logging experience. During the previous two weeks he had been receiving on-the-job training as a rigging slinger. On the day of the incident there were three employees at the cable logging site: the choker setter, hooktender, and yarder (yoader) operator. The choker setter and hooktender sent a turn to the landing. After about 200 feet the turn got hung up on a stump. Attempting to free the turn, the choker setter ran the carriage a short ways downhill and then back uphill again. The turn did not come free. The choker setter walked up to the turn. He then clamped the skyline brake to the skyline and tight lined the skyline. This caused the lines to increase the lift tension on the choked logs. As the skyline and carriage picked up the turn, the end of the choked log swung uphill towards the choker setter hitting the front of his body and arms, knocking him down. When the choker setter was struck, he was about 28 feet to the side of the stump where the turn had hung up. He was taken to a hospital where he was kept overnight for observation. He had only minor injuries.



### Safety Requirements

- The employer must provide safety training for each employee. See WAC 296-54-507(1).
- Employees must be in the clear of logs, root wads, chunks, hazardous trees, rolling material and rigging before the go-ahead signal is given and must stay in the clear until all rigging movement has stopped. See WAC 296-54-577(4).
- Employees must move away from the turn so as to be above or behind the turn and 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).
- All employees must remain away from rigging that is stopped at a hang up, until the rigging has been slacked to reduce the hazard. See WAC 296-54-577(6).

### Recommended Safe Practices

- Have an experienced person directly supervise the rigging crew.
- When an upset condition occurs, have the most experienced person take charge to clear the condition.
- Rigging crew should be in the clear further than the swing radius of the longest log in the turn.

### Resources\*

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at: [www.SafetyConsult.Lni.wa.gov](http://www.SafetyConsult.Lni.wa.gov)
- Free video from Labor and Industries: Be Safe in the Woods at: [www.LNI.BeSafeintheWoods](http://www.LNI.BeSafeintheWoods)
- Free handbook from Oregon OSHA: Yarding and Loading Handbook at: [www.OR.OSHA.YardingandLoading](http://www.OR.OSHA.YardingandLoading)
- Free handbook on cable yarding systems by WorkSafe BC at: [www.worksafeBC.CableYardingSystems](http://www.worksafeBC.CableYardingSystems)
- Free video on finding a safe position while cable yarding by WorkSafe BC at: [www2.WorkSafeBC.SafePosition](http://www2.WorkSafeBC.SafePosition)

\*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/](http://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).

# Logging Safety Training Attendance Roster

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer title: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE	COMPANY	JOB TITLE

Safety training attendance roster reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_