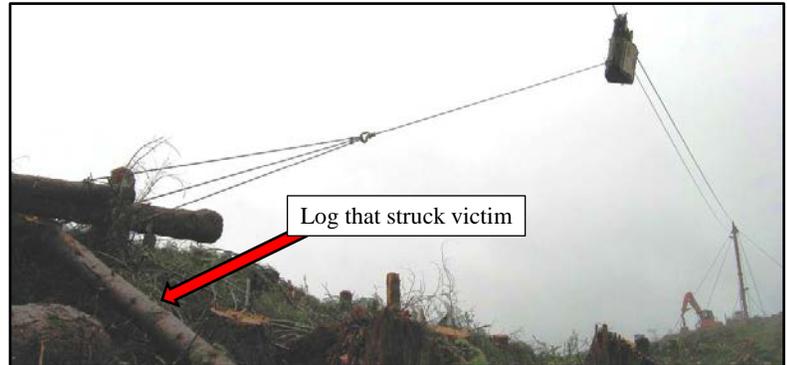


Rigging Slinger Killed When Struck in Head by Hung-up Log

Task: Cable logging **Occupation:** Rigging Slinger **Release Date:** August 28, 2015

In November 2014, a 25-year-old rigging slinger died after he was struck in the head by a log that swung while being yarded. The victim was part of a two-man rigging crew working on both sides of the skyline. They were alternating between pre-setting chokers and acting as rigging slinger. The victim had three years of experience as a rigging slinger; his coworker had been on the job for six months. They were working about 600 feet below the landing on an approximately 45 degree slope. The victim was down in a slight draw pre-setting chokers below and in front of a three-log turn to be yarded. The other worker was above the draw hooking up the previously set chokers and could not see the victim. He called to the victim to ask if it was all right to signal the go-ahead to yard the turn. The victim gave him the OK. After about 40 feet, the turn became hung-up on a stump causing one of the trees, a double-topped fir approximately 70-feet long, to upend down into the draw where the victim was standing. The log struck him in the head under the chin. The yarder operator stopped the turn when he saw the victim's hardhat flying through the air. The other employees who were onsite began CPR in the field. Emergency responders arrived and transported him to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.



Turn hung-up on stump with log that upended and struck victim



Incident scene showing victim's location and log that struck him

Safety Requirements

- Employers must ensure that employees 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\(5\)](#)

Recommended Safe Practices

- To be in the clear, remain out of the swing radius of the longest log being yarded. This distance includes the length of the log, the choker, the drop line, and any line deflection that could occur.
- Before pre-setting chokers, the employer, supervisor, or hooktender should develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting will be done in a safe manner, and review it with all members of the rigging crew.
- Ensure that rigging slingers always get themselves in the clear, not just their choker setters, before signaling the go-ahead on a turn.
- Clear out on the same side of the lines.
- Never begin setting chokers until the turn has cleared your area. The amount of time you think you might save isn't worth your life!

Resources

- In the Clear training packet from the Washington Logger Safety Initiative (LSI): www.lni.wa.gov/Main/LoggerSafety/Pdfs/TrainingPacketInTheClearCableLogging.pdf
- Free video from Labor & Industries, "Be Safe in the Woods" at: fortress.wa.gov/lni/shrl/VideoDetails.aspx?VideoID=1490
- LSI Sample Accident Prevention Program for Logging Operations. : www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSILoggingOperationsSampleAPP.doc

