

## Quarterly Cutting Training

### October 2019

#### Communication and Rescue

These two terms are commonly heard around most any logging site. Each term has separate meanings and in the Washington State Logging Standards codebook there are rules that are associated with each term.

#### Communication

The term “communication” appears twenty-six times in the Washington State Logging Standards codebook, while the term “rescue” only appears once in the codebook. Communication is one of the key elements in maintaining a safe and healthy work place and lessening the need for rescue. Rescue is the result after something catastrophic has happened. However, combining the terms and having good communication during a rescue situation might possibly be the single most important factor to saving a life.

#### Three common facts about cutting companies:

1. Falling timber is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Simply stating, there is a high possibility for serious injury.
2. Cutting crews are typically smaller companies with crew sizes of three to four workers at one particular site.
3. Timber cutting is typically done in remote logging locations.

#### The perfect storm

These three facts add up to a potentially disastrous rescue attempt, if the need were ever to occur. Having a good rescue plan may play a key role to a successful rescue.

#### Having a good plan

Ask yourself, “Where does your rescue plan start?” It starts before you ever leave your house. Does anyone at your home know the expected time you should return home? Do they know where you are working at? Do they have phone numbers to your employer or other coworkers in case you do not return home from work?

A possible scenario could be that you were the last person off the job for the day, all or some of the crewmembers may drive separate rigs. It is possible that someone wrecks, breaks down, or is stuck behind a gate without a key because the gate was expected to be unlocked and everyone else has gone home for the day. During high winds, it is possible that someone could have to cut a tree out of the road and get injured. In addition, depending on where you live, you may enter and leave the jobsite in a complete different direction than the rest of the crew.

Is it possible that you could be stuck without cell service and no one would know how or where to find you until the next day? Even if you are not injured, are you prepared to spend the night?

**Best Practice:** All members who drive separate from one another call or send a text to the lead person once they have reached either the blacktop or have arrived home, stating they have made it off of the job for the day.

## Pay attention to detail

On your way into the jobsite, pay attention to road markers and or landmarks, so that you can be more descriptive on your Emergency Medical Plan (EMP). If you find that road numbers or mile markers are missing on logging roads, you should remark them with tree marking paint.

Many logging roads are hard to find and navigate if you are not familiar with the area. If you are giving EMS directions to your jobsite by stating the following “go through the gate at the #501 line then take the second left past, Martha’s Bridge.” Understand that this may not be very helpful to someone not familiar with the area. Often time’s loggers come to know landmarks by names that do not appear on maps.

EMERGENCY NOTES			
JOB NAME:	123 Spooky Lane Dracula's Dispatch		
JOB LOCATION:	Finger 27	Lantern 15	Potion 9E
	Finger 15	Lantern 15	Potion 9E
	Finger 1	Lantern 15	Potion 9E
	Finger 55	Lantern 15	Potion 9E
	Coordinates: North Pole		
NEAREST HELIPORT LANDING:			
NEAREST EMERGENCY FACILITY:			
ROAD DIRECTIONS:	From Main continue west on 305 go .1 turn left on Ghost rd x bridge go straight thru gate on Cauldron Ln go continue 9.3 miles to Hocus Pocus / Casper river jct stay right on Hocus Pocus go 1.0 turn right up hill go .4 to jct stay left into Candy Corn block		
	From gate Go appx 7 miles turn right on Pumpkin creek ml go .4 stay. Right on Joker go .4 to beginning of unit go 2.3 more to end		
LAND OWNER:	Jack-o'-lantern Properties		
COUNTY:	Skeleton		
SHUT DOWN ZONE:	Scarecrow		

Double check that your jobsite is on a map. Often time’s new spurs that were just built do not show up on maps until they have been updated. Being more descriptive such as, telling the EMS worker to “take the first right after mile marker 58 going east bound, then turn right just past the big red barn, there you will see a blue gate,” could be far more helpful to EMS. Remember giving the coordinates maybe work from the air but if an EMS vehicle had to travel the road, it may be difficult without specific instructions. It may be helpful to meet EMS at the gate and guide them in but remember cutting companies are very small and you might not have an extra person available to do this.

**Best Practice:** Stop in at the local fire department before the job starts especially, if you feel that you are working at a lesser-known or very remote area. Provide them with a copy of your EMP and show someone on a map exactly where you are going to be working. Again, if the spur that you are working from is not on a map, this is a good time to add this to your copy.

## Communication with your crew

Does everyone have a cell phone? More importantly, do you have cell phone service? Is it charged or do you keep an extra battery? In a rescue situation, it is a good practice to know ahead of time where you have service. Plan for what you are going to do if you work in an area that does not have cell phone service. In addition, if your cell phone is password protected, do your crewmembers have access to your phone just in case they need to use your phone and you are not responsive to assist them? It is possible to have a working cell phone in your hand but cannot make a call because you do not know the password.

**Best Practice** In your emergency box, leave a copy of the EMP and a company handheld radio and or cell phone numbers of the crewmembers. Make sure to clearly label the box so in an emergency event anyone can locate the box. Additional items that are helpful to keep in your emergency box: a charged cell phone, satellite phone, or rescue transponder, EMP, extra company handheld radio (set to your channel) to reach the crew. External batteries are helpful but remember if you do not have the correct charging cord, they are useless.

## Communication with other crews

Often times there will be other companies that are working in the area near-by. In an emergency, you may need to contact another nearby company for help. The more people the better, carrying out an injured worker from the bottom of a canyon will be extremely difficult and having others to trade off with will be very helpful. Having extra help also allows someone to meet EMS at the blacktop so that EMS can find your jobsite faster.

**Best Practice** Knowing the CB channel for other crews working in the area. Also, save cell phone numbers to some of the workers on the nearby jobsite in the event you cannot reach them by CB radio. Keep this information in your emergency box and or in your telephone. You can take a picture of the phone number list and access it from your phone from the spot of the injury. Consider if you have to leave the injured worker to go get phone numbers out of your emergency kit. This could take 30 to 40 minutes before you return to the injured worker.

## SOS Rescue Devices

There are a number of rescue tracking SOS devices available for sale on the market. Most of these devices communicate with satellites and do not need cellular service. Some of the devices will alert several preselected people including EMS and give your exact location. There are devices that will provide a map of the area from which you have activated the SOS device. Some systems include features that allow you to send texts such as “made it out of the woods for the day,” or “I have a dead battery and need help.”



## **Washington State Administrative Codes WAC**

The follow are some of the Washington State WAC Codes associated with logging sites relevant to this training.

### **296-54-513 (3-5)**

(3) Each employee must be within visual, audible, or radio/telephone contact with another person who can assist in case of emergency.

(4) In any logging operation where cutting, yarding, or loading are performed, there must be at least two employees working as a team.

(5) Each employee must have visual or audible signal contact with another employee as often as this schedule requires: (a) Cutters - 30 minutes.

### **296-54-513 (7-10)**

(7) You must establish a method of checking the employees in from the woods at the end of each shift, including operators of all movable equipment. Each immediate supervisor must account for their crew.

(8) Each logging worksite must have at least one serviceable and operable two-way radio, phone, or radio/phone combination available to reach emergency service. Citizen band radios are permitted only as a secondary means of communication.

(9) Each logging worksite must have an emergency medical plan to ensure rapid emergency medical care for employees with major illnesses and injuries. The plan must be in writing and include the following: (a) Township, range, and section numbers or latitude and longitude; (b) Directions by road, or escort provisions to the site; (c) Telephone number of emergency medical services; and (d) Provisions for emergency vehicle(s) access, when working behind locked gate(s).

### **WAC 296-54-51520**

#### **First-aid training.**

(1) At logging worksites, each employee, including supervisors, must hold a valid certificate of first-aid and CPR training. New employees not holding a valid certificate of training must be trained within six months of being hired and they must be working on a crew where at least one person holding a valid certificate of first-aid and CPR training is present at all times.

**WAC 296-54-51530 (1) & (2) (O)**

**First-aid kits.**

(1) You must provide first-aid kits at all worksites.

(2) Worksite first-aid kits must contain the following minimum supplies at all times:

(o) One stretcher or equivalent weather proof litter at any three or more person worksite, and at all logging sites