



Logger Safety Initiative Quarterly Training

Why am I receiving this LSI Safety Training Packet?

As an LSI participant, you are required to annually attend approved LSI Employer Logger Safety program training. There are two parts to the required training: Formal Training and Safety Training (see the attached LSI Training Requirements for more details). This packet satisfies one of the four required Safety Trainings. You must also ensure that all of your workers receive four LSI required trainings per year.

How do I provide the training to my employees?

You and your delegated supervisors, if delegated, and all employees engaged in manual logging operations must participate in at least four LSI trainings on an annual basis. If you have employees that do ground operations, even if only occasionally, review the “In the Clear Rigging” safety training (found on our website) materials in detail and discuss the scenarios with employees.

What documentation is required?

You will need to document that the training took place as part of your safety minutes. Be sure staff has signed the safety meeting sign-in sheet. The completion of the training will be assessed at the annual DOSH LSI Consultation.



Quarterly Cutting Training: Basic Chainsaw Operation and Falling/Bucking Hazards

January 2019

The following training is intended to heighten your awareness of hazards associated with falling/bucking timber and basic chainsaw operation.

Take Care of Your Saw

A properly maintained saw is in itself a safety measure. A dull chain will cause you to overwork the saw. Improper chain tension can cause the chain to break. Lack of bar oil will wear the bar quickly and could cause the chain to derail resulting in serious injury.

Check your saw for the following:

- Make sure the chain is sharp.
- Make sure all the parts and nuts are tight.
- Check the chain brake function.
- Check the interlock.

Starting the Saw

Improperly starting and holding the saw are some of the most frequently cited hazards when LSI Consultants visit timber falling operations.

- Do not drop start a saw. It can bring the tip of the saw dangerously close to the body while pulling.
- Make sure chain brake is engaged.
- Place the saw on the ground with foot in the handle or place the saw on an object and throw start.

Avoiding Kickback

Kickback occurs when the saw rotates back, or "kicks back" at the operator, due to the nose of the saw contacting an object or obstruction.

To prevent kick back:

- Use a saw equipped with chain brake or kickback guard.
- Hold the saw firmly with both hands. Grip the top handle by wrapping the thumb around it.
- Watch for twigs that can snag the chain.
- Don't pinch the chain while cutting the log.
- Saw with the lower part of the bar close to the bumper, not on the top near the nose.
- Maintain high saw speed when entering or leaving a cut.
- Keep the chain sharp.
- Do not reach above your shoulder to cut. The chain is too close to your face in this position.



Push Back & Pull in

This happens when the chain on top of the bar is suddenly stopped or hits a foreign object and causes the saw to push back toward the operator. Pull in occurs when bottom of bar is suddenly pinched or hits a foreign object.

- Position yourself off to one side and have a firm grip on the saw.
- To avoid pull in ensure that the "dogs" are against the object being cut. Start your cut at high chain speed, don't overreach, avoid cutting above shoulder height, and use wedges if kerf begins to close.

Bucking Blow Down

If you know you will be using a saw to buck blowdown ensure someone knows where you are and check in with him or her regularly.

Evaluate trees for:

- Tension
- Lean
- Limbs, vine maple, or other trees under it.
- Will roots pop back up or fall down?
- Will the tree roll?
- Look up. Evaluate to see if limbs will come down or other trees are hung up.
- Is there a safe place to stand?



- If the situation is beyond your skill level, have another experienced timber cutter help you.

Bucking and limbing safety tips:

- Avoid making cuts with the saw between your legs.
- Do not stand on a log and saw between your feet.
- Stand to one side of the limb you are cutting.
- Always stand to the side of the saw – not directly behind it.
- Do not put yourself in a position where you are off balance or in danger of tripping over debris.
- Keep both hands on the saw when cutting.
- Be mindful of where the chain would go if it should break – do not cut with others in line with the chain.
- Keep the chain out of the dirt and rocks.
- Be sure the fallen tree is stable.
- Stand on the uphill side when removing limbs.
- Be cautious of limbs that may be under tension – they may spring back when the tension is released.
- Use a wedge to keep the log from binding the saw.

Domino Falling

Domino falling is an extremely dangerous work practice. Usually confined to small timber, it has taken many lives in the logging industry. **Domino falling of trees, including danger trees, is prohibited.** Domino falling does not include the falling of a single danger tree by falling another tree into it to overcome a falling difficulty.

Read the attached SHARP Logging Injury Alert that describes an incident of tree pushing with “jackpots” and hidden hazards. Have your crew discuss how they would have overcome this hazardous situation and what they may have done different.

Timber Cutter Struck by Small Hemlock

Task: Cutting timber **Occupation:** Timber cutter **Release Date:** 2018

In June 2018, a 44-year-old timber cutter with 12 years of experience was seriously injured when he was struck by a falling small hemlock. His employer was subcontracted to do hand falling of timber. On the day of the incident, he and two other cutters were working at the site. They were being paid by the hour because the job was considered to be extremely dangerous and needed to be done without rushing. The site had standing trees of various sizes, including many that were densely packed with small stems. There were a lot of “jackpots”—trees leaning into other trees with bound up tops. The cutter made partial cuts in two trees and was going to push them down with another tree. He noticed that there was a small leaning hemlock 39 feet away on the slope above him. It did not appear to be touching the tree he was cutting, so he did not think that there was a danger of it coming down. He felled the tree and started along his escape path. As he was doing this, he slipped and fell. While he was lying on his back on the ground, the 6-inch diameter hemlock fell and struck him in his midsection and legs. His spine was severed, resulting in paralysis of his legs and lower body.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

Photo 1. The tree that broke off and the direction of its fall.

Photo 2. The tree and the location of the cutter when it struck him. The tree was bucked after it fell.

Photo 3. Trees leaning into each other in the area near where the cutter was falling timber.

Safety Requirements

- One worker must not fall a tree or danger tree when the assistance of another worker is necessary to minimize the risk of injury caused by overhead hazards, loose bark, or interlocked limbs, conditions of the tree or cutting conditions. See [WAC 296-54-539\(11\)](#).
- Domino falling of trees, including danger trees, is prohibited. Domino falling does not include the falling of a single danger tree by falling another tree into it. See [WAC 296-54-539\(10\)\(9\)](#).

Recommended Safe Practices

- Always make a thorough risk assessment of hazards in your work area. When conditions are especially dangerous slow down and look for hazards, such as leaners and trees that are bound up with each other's tops. Perform assessments more frequently as you work.
- When planning operations at a site, consider hazards when deciding whether to use hand fallers or mechanized equipment.

Logging Safety Training Attendance Roster

Date: _____ Subject: _____ Location: _____

Trainer: _____ Trainer title: _____

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE	COMPANY	JOB TITLE

Safety training attendance roster reviewed by _____ date _____