



WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

Logger Safety Initiative Safety Training –In the Clear Rigging Packet

Why am I receiving this LSI Safety Training Packet?

LSI participants 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. The LSI employer must ensure that all workers receive four LSI required trainings per year.

How do I provide the training to my employees?

LSI Employers and supervisors, if delegated, and all employees engaged in manual logging operations must participate in at least four (4) Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) trainings on an annual basis. If you have employees that do rigging, even if only occasionally, review the “In the Clear Rigging” safety training materials in detail and discuss the scenarios with employees.

What documentation is required?

LSI employers will document that the training took place as part of their safety minutes. Be sure that staff have signed the safety meeting sign-in sheet. The completion of the training will be assessed at the annual DOSH LSI Consultation.

Safety Questions

An LSI Landowner developed the following questions, based on the lessons learned from a recent fatality investigation, and can be used as part of the training discussion:

- a. Have there been any near misses lately? When was the last time you reported a hazard observation?
- b. What do you consider a hazard? How are you identifying hazards?
- c. Show me a hazard you identified and what is your safe work plan for the hazard?
- d. How far ahead have you planned on this unit?
- e. What conditions would cause you to stop work?
- f. What conditions would cause you to ask for an experienced second opinion? When was the last time you called for a second opinion?
- g. Do you always embrace safe work practices regardless if someone is watching or not?
- h. Have you ever violated a safety rule? Why?
- i. Have you ever read an incident report that caused you to change your own practices?
- j. Have you seen another cutter doing something you considered to be unsafe? Did you speak up, stop them, or tell your supervisor?
- k. What are some additional recommendations you'd have in these situations?

Questions

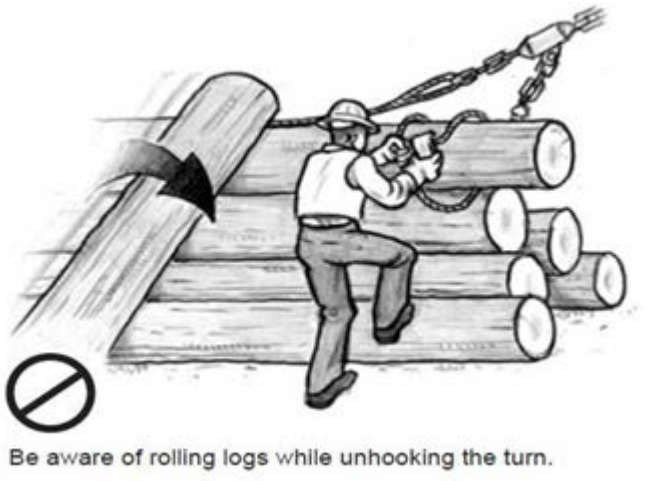
If you have any questions regarding the training requirements, please contact the LSI Program Office by calling (360) 902-5008 or via email at LoggerSafety@lni.wa.gov.

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In the Clear Rigging – LSI Training

Case 1: On May 5, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. a log rolled off a deck in the chute and struck the chaser. The chaser had one year of experience and mainly worked as a choker setter. The shovel operator was adding hydraulic oil to his machine, and the crew continued to yard. There were two turns in the chute already and the log pile was about seven feet high. The yarder operator brought in the next turn and landed it. The chaser went in to unbell the chokers once the yarder operator stopped slacking the turn. The logs began to roll off the pile and a ten foot limb struck the chaser in the head and leg. The chaser was sent to the hospital with a broken femur, facial and skull fractures, and decreased hearing.



Safety Requirements and Safe Practices

- Logs must be stable and secure before being approached by employees and before chokers are unhooked. 269-54-577(10)
- Logs must not accumulate in the landing chute to the point where they become a hazard to the landing personnel. 269-54-577(9)
- If a machine is not available to keep the chute clear do not continue to yard if the logs cannot be decked safely in the chute by the yarder.
- If a turn is landed and the logs are unstable wait for a machine to assist before unbell the turn.

Case 2: At about 10:00 am on April 12, 2013 a rigging crew was presetting chokers. The choker setter was relatively new to logging with seven weeks of logging experience. When the rigging came back the rigging slinger stopped it and hooked up a preset turn. The chokerman took his chokers to drop them off at the next turn. The rigging slinger and choker setter were on the same side of the skyline and both thought he was in the clear when the go ahead whistle was blown. One log buried in brush was longer than they thought and when it came free; the top stuck the chokersetter and broke his femur.



Safety Requirements and Safe Practices

- 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.
- Prior to presetting chokers go over a presetting choker plan, develop a written safety plan and review the plan with all rigging crew members (LSI Requirement).
- If it is unclear where a log ends clear out further to be sure you are in the clear.
- Keep a closer eye on new employees or employees taking on a new job task.

Case 3: Chaser caught in choker bight (attached Fatality Narrative)

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Files/92102014ChaserCaughtinChokerBight.pdf>

Case 4: Choker setter injured when struck by log (attached Fatality Narrative)

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Files/92122014ChokerSetterInjuredWhenStruckbyLog.pdf>

Chaser Caught in Choker Bight

Task: Releasing chokers on logs

Occupation: Chaser

Release Date: July 11, 2014

A 30-year-old chaser was severely injured when his leg was caught in the bight, or loop, of a choker and the line went taut. The experienced chaser, who had worked for his employer for seven years, was working at a landing where tree-length logs were being yarded. The site consisted of a tower yarder utilizing a standing skyline with a drop-line motorized carriage. A processor was on the landing processing and stacking logs and keeping the landing chute clear. The landing was slightly sloped and large enough to land most turns. But some turns consisting of a single tree-length log (as long as 140 feet) needed to be secured from sliding downhill. The crew was aware of the hazard of longer logs sliding away at the landing and developed a method of preventing this. These turns were held in place by the yarder operator while the processor grabbed the log and laid it down on the landing, so that the chaser could unhook the choker. The crew had successfully brought in numerous turns using this method. Turns that consisted of shorter logs that the crew determined to be not at risk of sliding away were deposited at the landing where the chaser would unhook the chokers without the aid of the processor stabilizing the log. When a turn consisting of two shorter logs and one longer log was brought to the landing, the chaser went to release the chokers of the two shorter logs. The chaser believed the turn to be stable and secure from movement. As the chaser approached the turn, the longer log began to slide downhill, as it did so it tightened up the chokers on the shorter logs and dragged them along. The chaser's lower right leg was caught in the bight, or loop, of a choker as it tightened up. He was dragged several feet and then lifted about 10 feet off the ground where he dangled upside-down for about 10-20 seconds before the yarder operator was able to lower him to the ground. Due to the compression of the choker around his leg, he suffered a severe crush injury requiring surgery and rehabilitation treatment. Nearly a year after his injury he had not fully recovered enough to be able to return to his job.



Incident landing site with yarder and processor.

Safety Requirements

- Logs must be stable and secure before being approached by employees and before chokers are unhooked. See WAC 296-54-577(10).

Recommended Safe Practices

- Do not move in to unhook chokers until you have made eye contact with the yarder operator and the operator signals it is safe to do so.
- If a turn is unstable, stay in the clear and signal a machine operator to reposition the unstable log(s).
- The rigging slinger should determine whether it is safe to send a turn to the landing. In this incident it would have been safer to send a turn with the two shorter logs and then another turn with the longer log.

Resources*

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at: www.SafetyConsult.Lni.wa.gov
- Free video from Labor & Industries, "Be Safe in the Woods" at: www.LNI.BeSafeintheWoods
- Accident Prevention Program for Logging Operations. Washington State Logger Safety Initiative at: www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSILoggingOperationsSampleAPP.doc

*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/, 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).

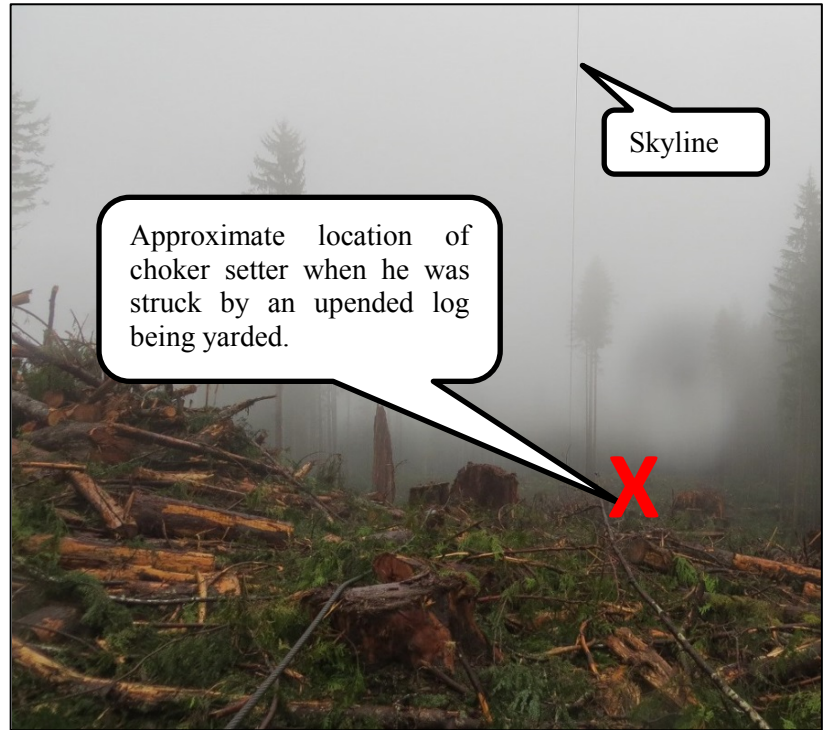
Choker Setter Injured When Struck by Log

Task: Pre-setting chokers

Occupation: Choker setter

Release Date: October 24, 2014

On March 25, 2014, a 41-year-old choker setter pre-setting chokers was seriously injured when he was struck by a log being yarded. A four-man rigging crew with a rigging slinger and three choker setters were working on a 30% slope about 500 feet from the landing. The choker setters were on one side of the skyline and the rigging slinger was on the other side. After the crew had rigged a three-log turn, the choker setters began pre-setting chokers for the next turn. The rigging slinger gave the go-ahead signal and the yarder operator began moving the turn to the landing. Two of the choker setters were not in the clear of the turn. As the turn moved uphill, one of the logs in the turn upended and swung toward them. One choker setter dived under the moving log; the other choker setter was struck in the hip by the log and was seriously injured.



Safety Requirements

During yarding operations:

- Employees must move away from the turn so as to be above or behind the turn 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

- Before starting pre-setting operations at a new site, the employer, jobsite supervisor, or hooktender must develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting chokers will be conducted in a safe manner.
- The rigging slinger must ensure that all members of the crew are in the clear before giving the go-ahead signal.
- Before giving the go-ahead signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all members of the crew are in the clear.
- Choker setters must not set their chokers until a turn clears their area and they are in the clear.
- Remember it's never you until it is – keep the team safe by reporting hazards.

Resources*

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at: www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov
- Free video from Labor & Industries, “Be Safe in the Woods” at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/shrl/VideoDetails.aspx?VideoID=1490>
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Logger Safety Initiative Safety Training Requirements

LSI participants are required to annually attend approved LSI Employer Logger Safety program training. If the employer delegates supervision and or training responsibilities, those individuals must also attend the formal training sessions. This document outlines what the training requirements are and how LSI participants can meet them.

Formal Training Sessions

A minimum of 4-hours of formal training, specific to safety, is required in each calendar year. For LSI purposes, formal training is a course, program, seminar, conference, or convention. Credit will be provided for safety related content only, for example, when you attend an 8-hour class and 2-hours are related to safety, you'll receive two safety credit hours.

Employers are required to submit documentation to the LSI Program Office to show they've fulfilled their training requirement. For each training attended, the employer must submit the following information: a description of the training, the training provider, and date attended.

Examples of approved formal training may include:

- WCLA Safety Conference
- L&I Governor's Safety and Health Conference
- Master Logger's Safety Training
- L&I Safety Training Workshop
- LSI Landowner Safety Day or Trainings
- Oregon Governor's Conference
- Western Pulp, Paper, & Forest Products Safety and Health Conference
- Intermountain Logging Conference
- Pacific Logging Congress
- Associated Oregon Loggers Annual Statewide Safety Conference
- Or other training as approved by the LSI Taskforce

Safety training (Four trainings a year)

Training materials will be created for LSI and provided to LSI participants to complete. The employer and supervisor, if delegated, and all employees engaged in manual logging operations must receive at least four (4) of the LSI trainings. Training can be conducted by any of the employees or an outside person and can be done as part of regular safety meetings.

LSI participants will complete and document that the training took place as part of their safety minutes. The completion of training will be assessed at the annual comprehensive DOSH consultation.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the training requirement, please contact the LSI Program Office by calling (360) 902-5008 or via email at **LoggerSafety@lni.wa.gov**.