



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.

WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

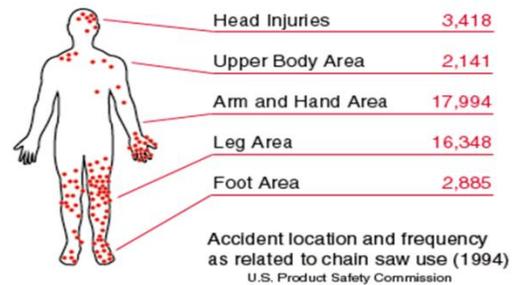
Quarterly Cutting Safety Training: Overcoming Bucking Difficulties

August 4, 2016

Accidents can occur in a fraction of a second to anyone at any time. National statistics indicate that the average chainsaw cut takes 110 stitches to close and costs roughly \$350 million per year in insurance claims.

Cuts are the most common type of injury caused by chain saws. They can range from minor

hand injuries, while filing the chain, to major amputations or death. The most serious cuts are caused by kickbacks. A chainsaw can "kickback" with surprising force in less than 1/5 of a second. There is no time to react and, if you're poorly positioned, the resulting injuries can be severe. This training will help you identify external factors that relate to bucking safety, minimizing one's risk to exposure and hazardous situations.



Training

Per the LSI Logging Accident Prevention Program, before assigning falling and/or bucking duties, the employer must ensure that employees have the training and skills necessary to do the job safely, and that includes an on-the-job evaluation of the falling and bucking procedures used by employees. The evaluation must be conducted by a competent and qualified person. Employees must not be allowed to work independently until the training is completed.

Planning

When preparing for a fell and buck setting, there are a few vital pieces of information that a cutter should become aware of:

- 1) What is the purpose for having the timber fell and bucked?
- 2) Where is the landing going to be and is it adequate sized?
- 3) What equipment is going to be used to handle the wood?
- 4) Where is this wood going and what are the sorts?

Answering these questions, or discussing them with the supervisor, will ultimately minimize hazards you are exposed to. Knowing the logger and how they operate their equipment is useful information. If the yarder and processor are adequate sized along with a good sized landing, leaving an occasional uncut log or two might not present a problem at all. Additionally, having an understanding of the sorts allows the cutter to choose cuts and log lengths and avoids hazards caused by poorly-chosen cuts.

Communication

Good communication with the yarder crew and processor operator is very important. There are times when the cutter cannot safely buck a log right exactly where it should be cut. If the machines on the landing cannot land or process tree length, it may be necessary to still buck the log in a manner that is just a few feet longer than what the sort called for. Creating a marking system that would allow the processor operator to check the length of the log could ultimately prevent an accident. This can be accomplished by drawing a check mark with chalk on the butt of the log or cutting the top at an angle. This would let the processor operator to know to check the length of the log.

Bucking

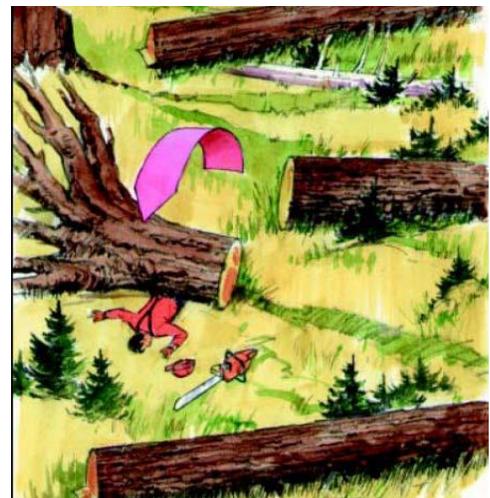
Determine whether the log can be bucked safely before starting the job. If you are unsure how to do your job safely, stop and ask another cutter for assistance and/or advice.

- Cut only from a position that will not expose you to a risk of injury.
- Before bucking a tree/log or blowdown/root-wad, look for:
 - side bind, pivot points, elevated butts, and tops that could cause log movement.
- Clear an escape path so you can get away if a log moves.
- Never buck below logs previously bucked.
- Always stand on the uphill side of a log that could roll. If the diameter of the log requires you to cut from both sides, start the cut on the downhill side and over exaggerate the amount of holding wood that you leave. Finish the cut from the uphill side of the log.
- Keep a firm grip on the saw with both hands. Never over-extend or hold the saw in one hand; re-position yourself.
- When teamed up ensure all workers are clear of the hazardous area before bucking
- Two or more persons should not buck a tree at the same time; logs can roll or shift as a result of the bucking process.
- Never start a bucking cut if there's a chance you can't finish it.
- If it becomes too dangerous to complete a cut, the log must be marked and identified by a pre-determined method to warn the rigging crew of this hazard.
- Cutters shall not use the chain saw to cut directly overhead or at a distance that would require the operator to relinquish a safe grip on the saw.
- When a falling tree brushes a snag, or other weak, unstable tree, leave the tree unbucked until the snag or defective tree is felled.
- Always be on the lookout for limbs or other objects hanging above in standing timber.

Windfalls and windfall roots

Only experienced cutters should buck windfalls.

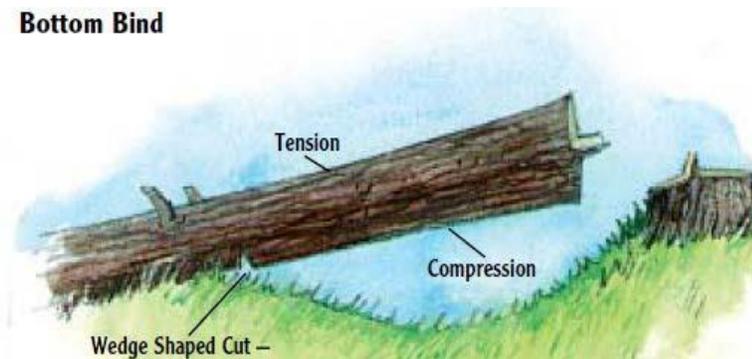
- Windfall roots should not be approached from the root-wad side.
- Avoid standing directly behind or downhill of a root-wad.
- Never assume that a windfall root-wad is safe because it has been down for a long time. It may still flip over unexpectedly.
- When bucking off a root-wad, leave a short log on the root-wad to prevent it from tipping.
- Buck the bottom windfalls of a "jackpot" first to avoid top logs or material from rolling.
- Watch for loose bark when walking on windfalls; it could cause a serious fall.



Bottom Bind

Bind

Bind can be expected in most felled trees. Bind is made worse by uneven terrain and other material already on the ground. Bind can be present in combinations of top and side bind, or bottom and side bind.

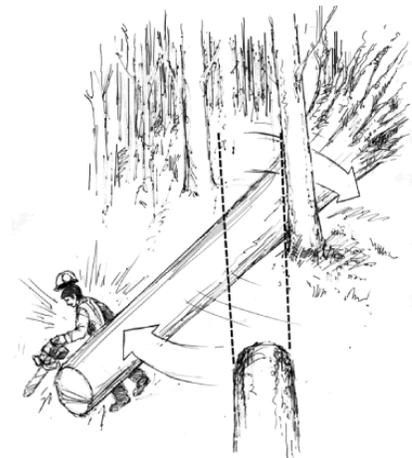


Many serious accidents have occurred because cutters failed to recognize side bind while bucking. They positioned themselves on the side to which the bucked log "sprung" or swung upon release. When safe, buck from the side that is away from the bind, and take out the bind at the safest spot along the tree/blowdown.

The best defense a cutter has to avoid injury and equipment damage is to examine the felled tree carefully. Determine any bind which may be present and what will happen when the bucked log is released. In general, you should start by cutting compression wood and finish by cutting the tension wood. A wedge shaped cut may need to be made if the tree is under a heavy bind.

Pivot Points

A pivot point is any feature on the ground that may cause a falling tree or log to react in an unexpected manner. Pivot points can be stumps, rocks or any protrusion that affects a log's balance or natural tendency to roll. They're usually encountered in bucking and can be dangerous if not recognized. As a bucked log is released, an unseen pivot point could cause one end of the log to slide or roll downhill and the other end to move uphill. If the cutter hasn't noticed the pivot and planned accordingly, he could be seriously injured.



Limbing

Use enough bar when limbing. Remember: the end of the bar and chain causes most kickbacks. Be ready for limbs under tension, these may try to flip the saw toward you as the limb is sawn off. Avoid touching other limbs with the backside or nose of the chain.