



Logger Safety Initiative Quarterly Training

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) 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?

LSI employers will document that the training took place as part of their 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 Safety Training: Working around winch-assisted machines

October 2018

Tethered or winch-assisted machines are becoming a common sight on harvest ground. Timber fallers should be aware of hazards created by these machines and be prepared to look for them if they work after a machine has finished.



- Winch-assisted machines are known to create ruts, which can make walking challenging.
- After the machines go through a timber stand look for windblown trees, hung up limbs, broken limbs and tops, leaning trees, brushed up timber and downed timber above the work area.
- All of these hazards increase if remaining standing timber is exposed to winter weather.

Fatigue:

Another challenge some timber cutters may experience when working behind a winch-assisted machine is fatigue. Timber cutters may find they have to travel by foot further or drive to several jobsites in one day to fulfill contracts. Fatigue is defined as mental and/or physical exhaustion that reduces your ability to perform work safely and effectively. Here are situations where fatigue can effect a timber cutter:

- Additional walking to scattered stands of trees where tethered machines are unable to work.
- Working on very steep slopes or on rocky bluffs and outcroppings where machines are unable to travel.
- Increased physical demands of walking through rough terrain when following tether machines.
- Packing all equipment to and from remote locations can add to overall fatigue.
- Driving fatigue (early mornings, long distance driving, and planning their routes/contracts to optimize time.).

Fatigue in the work place not only has an impact on workers' health, it can also affect the health and safety of those around you.

Fatigue can reduce a workers ability to:

- Make decisions.
- Use fine motor skills.
- Use effective communication skills.
- Productivity and performance.
- Attention to recall and recognize details.
- Handle stress.
- Reaction time.
- Appropriately respond to changes in surroundings.



Fatigue prevention:

As a faller what can you do to reduce fatigue if you have to travel into a remote unit that a machine cannot reach?

- Minimize hiking and walking to remote locations. Plan, if possible by mapping out access points to jobsite locations. Use roads to drop people off and pick them up.
- Pack only necessary gear. If possible, pack smaller gas and bar oil containers. Consider using a backpack to carry water, spare chains, and your first aid kit.
- Take breaks and hydrate regularly. After a long walk between trees, take a short break to drink water or eat a snack.
- When checking on your partner look for symptoms of fatigue, and if needed, take a break.

Reduce fatigue in your daily work:

Below are topics timber fallers can discuss with logging contractors to help reduce fatigue and increase production:

- When possible, ask the logging contractor to, mark out areas to be hand felled and allow hand fallers to work before a tether machine.
- Size, location, and accessibility of stand to be felled.
- If the tether machines goes in first, ask the contractor or operator to fall trees into the open and not brush up timber that has to be hand felled.
- If brush or timber are piled against standing timber, ask the operator to clean the area up for the hand fallers.
- Clean out trails to standing timber that needs to be felled.

Things to keep in mind – Communication is the key

Discuss your company communication. What do you do well? How can it be improved?

- Often time communication is lacking between different phases of logging. A quick conversation can make all jobs safer, more productive, and easier to complete.
- Plans change in logging often as well as markets, job sizes, harvest methods, landings, haul routes, and start times. It is important to communicate this with all involved in a job.
- When working with or for new contractor it is even more critical to discuss plans and expectations.
- For cutters coming in behind mechanical falling machine share with them the amount, size, locations, and spacing of trees to be hand felled. The owner can then send the cutter best suited for the situation.
- Any hazardous areas or conditions noted and shared with next phase in the operation.
- After job completion, provide input to each other to assist each phase in the future.

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

George Bernard Shaw