

## Hooktender Struck by Rolling Log While Preparing to Set Choker

**Task:** Preparing to set choker    **Occupation:** Hooktender    **Release Date:** 2023

In May of 2020, a 44-year-old hooktender died after he was struck by a rolling log that then pinned him against another log. The hooktender had worked for his employer, a logging company, for seven years and had worked in the logging industry for 27 years. On the day of the incident, he was working at a cable logging site. The hooktender and the rigging slinger were standing on a side-hill felled log waiting for the carriage to return so they could set chokers. The hooktender jumped down to the downhill side of the log to look for a choker hole. The rigging slinger felt the log begin to move. As he jumped off the log, he yelled a warning to the hooktender below him. Seconds later the log rolled downhill striking the hooktender and pinning him against another log. He died at the scene.



A reenactment of the position of the hooktender after the log in the left of the photo rolled downhill, striking him and pinning him against the downhill log.



Incident scene showing the site and the log that rolled downhill and fatally injured the hooktender. After the incident, the log was choked and moved in order to remove him.

### Safety Requirements

- Whenever possible, chokers must be set from the uphill side of the log. Persons must not be on the lower side of a log which appears to be unstable or likely to roll. See [WAC 296-54-577\(15\)](#)
- A safety and health meeting must be held each time you move logging or timber felling operations to a new job site. When moving to new site, site specific hazards should be identified and discussed during the prejob safety meeting. See [WAC 296-54-51510\(2\)](#)

### Recommended Safe Practices

- Ensure that workers:
  - Watch for unstable logs when setting chokers.

