



Logging Safety

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Logging has always been a high risk profession. With today's equipment it can be considered much safer, but the risk must still be addressed regularly. Here are ten tips from the Forest Resource Association (FRA) for safety at the logging site:

1. Safety is Job #1

A Logging Business Owner Makes Safety #1 Priority

Demonstrate a genuine and consistent concern for safety so employees know logging safety is the firm's number one priority. Lead by example. Never bend the rules.

2. Train Employees

Establish a Comprehensive Safety Training Program

Prepare a written safety program. Train and closely monitor new employees during their first year on the job (they are the employees most likely to suffer an injury.) Hold regular safety meetings to discuss OSHA regulations, incidents and close calls, and employee suggestions for safe work habits.

Obtain First Aid and CPR training.

3. Wear PPE

Wear Personal Protective Equipment

Get in the habit of wearing all appropriate personal protective equipment. It may save your life, or prevent serious injury. OSHA requires at a minimum: hard hats, eye protection, hearing protection, and foot protection for all woods workers. Chain saw operators must wear cut resistant leg protection and logging boots. Equipment operators should wear seat belts. Wear high visibility clothing as well.



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4. Look Up!

Look For Overhead Hazards

Every year dead limbs, lodged trees, and other overhead hazards kill and maim hundreds of loggers nationwide. All woods workers should practice "heads up" to avoid possible hazards. Remember: Gravity kills! Train employees to recognize overhead hazards and to safely eliminate the danger; for example, using a skidder to ground a lodged or setback tree before work continues.

5. Two Tree Lengths Rule

Work Outside of Strike Zone

Plan work so that woods workers are separated by at least two tree lengths of the trees being felled. This is especially important when manual felling or felling with a continuously rotating saw head is being done. Watch out for each other! This separation of workers while maintaining visual or audible contact with each other greatly reduces the risk of serious injury if an accident occurs.



6. Chain Saw Training

Practice Safe Directional Manual Felling

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that logging is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Of those injured or killed, over sixty percent were engaged in cutting activities (felling, limbing, or bucking) with a chain saw at the time of their accidents. Selecting a safe direction of fall, creating the proper notch and hinge, protecting the hinge during the backcut, and proceeding on the escape path are some of the steps chain saw operators must take to fell a tree safely in the desired direction.

7. Maintenance & Repair

Properly Maintain Your Equipment

On fully mechanized logging operations, the greatest risk of injury occurs during equipment maintenance and repair. Logging safety experts suggest the following: Inspect your equipment before use. Establish a regular, preventative maintenance program on all equipment. Safely ground moving elements before maintenance and repair. Set the parking brake and place the transmission in park. Use the 3-point mount and dismount technique to avoid slips, trips, and falls when working on logging machines.



Teamwork is essential to a logging crew. Workers must be aware of where others are working and what movement of logs are happening.



8. Teamwork is Important

Retain Valuable Logging Employees

Implement adequate compensation and benefit plans as a means of retaining valuable, experienced employees and of keeping a good, safe crew together. Teamwork is important as it relates to logging safety. Reward employees for periods of accident-free work.

9. Be All That You Can Be!

Good Physical and Mental Condition

Many loggers are injured because they show up to work in poor mental or physical condition. They may be sick, distracted because of personal problems, on drugs, tired, or hung over. Send these woods workers home rather than risk injury. Exercise regularly and eat healthy. Leave personal problems at home.

10. Don't Take Chances

"There Is No Tree Out Here Worth Getting Hurt Over"

A favorite quote of former FRA President Ken Rolston, it simply means, don't take chances. Remember, no job is so important that your safety has to be jeopardized to accomplish it. Don't hurry! It's hard not to hurry at times, especially during periods of daily quotas. Make sure the entire logging crew remembers that safety is Job #1.

SAFETY TRAINING SIGN-IN

Company Name: _____ Date: _____

Subject: Logging Safety

The following employees participated in this training.

1. _____
2. _____
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