



# WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

## Safety Alert Chaser Loses Fingers While Spooling Line

April 24, 2014

A 40-year veteran logger lost three fingers while spooling line on a yarder recently. He was standing on a block of wood, and the line was being pulled to the right side of yarder. He started off by using a tool to spool line, which is the correct way, but then the line became hung up. After the rigging slinger freed the line the chaser grabbed it with his hands to spool. His hand was pulled into the drum and three fingers were amputated.

### Factors contributing to the injury:

- 1) Spooling line by hand.
- 2) Standing too close to the drum – his hands were too close to the spooling line leaving no margin for error.

### Recommendations:

- 1) Use a tool for spooling line, preferably a line hook.
- 2) Place a lead block out front to eliminate side pull and need to spool.
- 3) Stand in appropriate place when spooling line.
- 4) If the line is not spooling properly, determine the reason before