

# WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

## Written Safety Plan for Pre-setting chokers

Before starting pre-setting operations on a new setting, the employer, jobsite supervisor or hooktender must develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting will be conducted in a safe manner. The following safety plan must be reviewed with all rigging crew members before starting to pre-set on a new setting.

Purpose and objectives:

- Ensure that the rigging crew understands the inherent hazards of pre-setting.
- Ensure that safe work practices are being followed at all times.
- Ensure that employees are in the clear of logs, root wads, chunks, hazardous trees, rolling material, and rigging before the go-ahead signal is given and remain in the clear until all rigging movement has stopped.

The following safe work practices must be adhered to:

1. No pre-setting of chokers in areas made unsafe by runaway logs such as steep side hills, draws and directly under the landing.

**List areas in the setting to be avoided:**

2. Do not split crews on the hillside when the ground is so steep that it could send material back down on the lower crew. If you plan to split the crews, are there any areas to be avoided?

**List areas:**

3. If the crew is split up on the hillside, the top crew needs to be well in the clear when the turn from the lower crew passes.
4. Workers must remain clear of standing trees and saplings that could be pulled over by lateral yarding; they must also remain clear of upending and swinging logs. Partially pulled over trees must be removed before yarding commences or continues in the hazardous area.
5. Before giving the “go ahead” signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all workers in the near vicinity are in the clear.
6. Workers pre-setting must be able to hear audible signals.
7. When pre-setting chokers on both sides of the line, there must be at least one signaling device at each location.
8. **Never** cross under or over a yarding line until the line/rigging is stopped.