LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

July 2021

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.

WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

Quarterly Cutting Training: Cutting in a Thinning

July 2021

This training will review the hazards associated with cutting timber in a thinning. Once hazards have been identified, developing procedures and applying methods to help reduce the chance of injury is imperative. Performing a risk assessment to identify hazards and potential failure zones, may not always ensure complete safety. However, it is a key component to minimizing inherent dangers and helping to ensure that the job is performed as safe as possible.

First off, what are some of the safety aspects related to cutting timber in a thinning? Please take a few minutes to discuss what you already may already know with your crew. Potentially, you may unveil other elements not covered in this training. *(Supervisors make a list of your crew's suggestions).*_____
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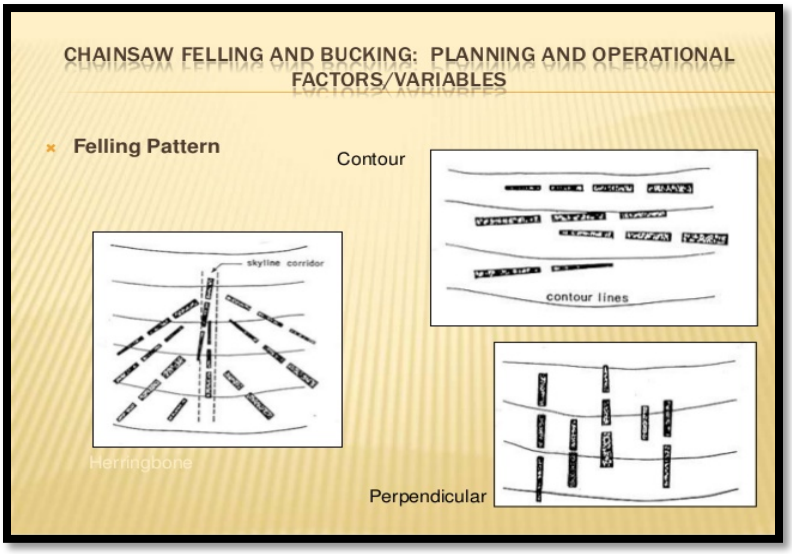
Though there are countless hazards one can encounter, we have narrowed it down to a few of the most common hazards while cutting timber in a thinning:

- Overhead hazards
- Lack of Visibility
- Hung-up trees
- Fell and buck
- Smaller tree complacency

Overhead hazards



Cutting timber in tight corridors of a thinning can offer a challenge to the cutter and present hazards not as typical as those in clear-cut logging. There are many different thinning patterns used, the most typical thinning pattern is the "herring-bone" corridor. The herringbone pattern is a method that involves cutting the standing trees directly down the hill on the initial corridor and then quartered away on the shorter side corridors. Cutting in such a manner requires the cutter to ensure that they hit their mark when falling the timber otherwise trees can hang-up into the existing standing timber, which in return can create hazards to both the cutter and the rigging crew that comes in after.

Before falling or bucking, check for defects such as rot and cat faces, widow makers or other overhead material, location of other trees, lean of the tree, wind, etc. If unsafe, stop and ask for another cutter's help or advice with any question about the safe cutting or bucking of a tree or snag.

The following is a list of a few items to consider:

- Carry enough wedges to ensure each tree is directed where it is intended to be fell.
- When swamping out your escape path don't forget to look up for hazards that could fall into your escape path.
- Allow everything to settle after each tree is fell. There is a potential that the existing standing timber holds hangers or broken tops that could fall onto the cutter as they attempt to access or cut the next tree.
- Often times thinning requires the cutter to buck a log off each tree length. If you are unfamiliar or have not had to fell and buck in a while ensure that this is a topic in your pre-job safety meeting.

- Bucking after each tree help to ensure that the tress are not brushed or bound up create additional hazards to the cutter. It also eliminates the situation that if the next tree were to hang-up they would not be able to buck the previous tree from underneath the hung tree.

Lack of Visibility (Canopy & Ground)

The springtime brings in new life and growth to the trees. Hardwood trees common to the Pacific Northwest start to regrow leaves and transform the woods into a bright green color. Not only does this process reduce the amount of light to the forest floor; the new growth to the canopy makes overhead hazards less visible to the cutter. This potentially can lead to catastrophic injury including the possibility of death.

Best practice to wear high visibility colors that contrast to the background scenery. Due to limited visibility, pay extra attention to maintaining good communication with other workers in your work area. Take extra time to evaluate for hidden dangers. Examine trees from multiple angles. This may mean hiking up the hill to get a different vantage point to clearly evaluate the canopy and treetop.

Hung-up trees

Many fatal-accident investigations reveal that the fallers involved had created "hang-ups" in their area. They were working under one of these hang-ups when struck by it.

Hang-ups are caused by:

- Poor planning of the work area.
- Loss of directional control.

Losing control of the falling tree can be caused by:

- Cutting off the corner of holding wood;
- Stump pull or rot.
- "Dutchman" left in undercut.
- Wind.
- Failing to use wedges where required.

If trees are hung-up in another tree, special care must be taken when falling the tree supporting those that are hung-up.

Assess the situation carefully.

- If possible, keep the trunk of the supporting tree between you and the hang-up(s). In other words, if the hang-up is held by limbs on one side of the supporting tree, fall the supporting tree from the opposite side.
- If you are on steep ground, and the hang-ups are on the uphill side of the supporting tree, fall the tree by blasting or another safe alternative method.

Man-made hang-ups can be prevented by careful planning and the use of proper felling techniques.

Fell and buck

- Before bucking a tree/log or blowdown/rootwad, look for: side bind, pivot points, elevated butts, and tops that could cause log movement.
- Determine whether the log can be bucked safely
- Clear an escape path so you can get away if a log moves.
- Ensure all workers are clear of the hazardous area before bucking.
- Cut only from a position that will not expose you to a risk of injury.
- If it becomes too dangerous to complete a cut, the log must be marked and identified by a pre-determined method.
- Choose cuts and log lengths that enable you to avoid hazards caused by a poorly-chosen cut.
- Always buck from the high side of the log.
- Never buck below logs previously bucked.
- Two or more persons should not buck a tree at the same time if the release will result in movement.

Smaller tree complacency

Felling timber in general is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. With this timber, cutters have to be on their toes and aware of dangers at all times. However, when is it safe to let your guard down? The only true answer to this question is never. It is never safe not to give each intended tree to be fell the proper due justice and evaluation for the actual dangers and deficiencies.

Cutting smaller timber is a point where some timber cutters tend become less accurate on their practices. Ensure that time and attention is given to cut the proper faces into each tree and a level back cut.

Logging Safety Training

Attendance Roster

Date: _____ **Subject:** _____ **Location:** _____

Trainer: _____ **Trainer title:** _____

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGNATURE	COMPANY	JOB TITLE

Safety training attendance roster reviewed by _____ date_____

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