



WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

Logger Safety Initiative Quarterly Training

January 2022

Why am I receiving this LSI Safety Training Packet?

As an LSI participant, you 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. You must also ensure that all of your workers receive four LSI required trainings per year.

How do I provide the training to my employees?

You and your delegated supervisors, if delegated, and all employees engaged in manual logging operations must participate in at least four 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?

You will need to document that the training took place as part of your 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.

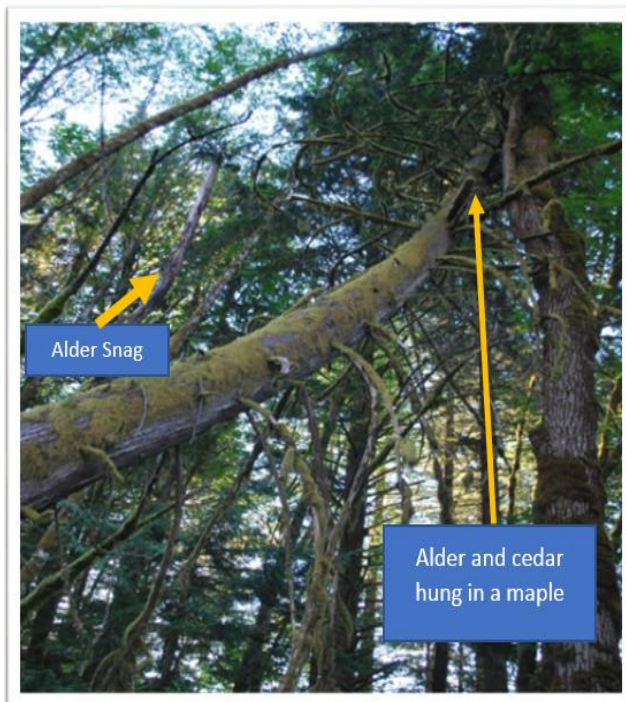
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Quarterly Cutting Training: Wind-thrown

Timber cutters face falling difficulties each day at work. It is critical that they possess skills to recognize hazards and safely handle them. Enviably the windy wet winter months of the Pacific NW create additional hazards. In return, a higher level of precaution must be taken during these months when working as a cutter.

Wind-thrown trees are very hazardous, as they can be unstable and unpredictable.



Wind-throw can cause:

- unstable roots;
- suspended stems under high tension and compression;
- stems wedged between standing trees;
- stems leaning into standing trees;
- uprooted trees;
- spars;
- shattered tops;
- suspended hazards;
- heavy leaners;
- restricted access, i.e. heavy slash; and
- undesirable or disrupted felling patterns.

Because this is not a regular occurrence, each wind-thrown tree needs to be assessed individually. It is important to reassess the tree faller before felling the wind-thrown. Wind-thrown trees should only be felled by competent persons.

Whenever possible, wind-thrown trees should be felled by machine, rather than manually.

When access issues prevent machine assisted tree felling, ensure all possible movement of a standing tree or wind thrown stem on release of tension or compression is assessed and cuts are planned beforehand.



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Here are some key recommended best practices to follow when working on or around wind-thrown trees.

- 1) When walking the unit prior to falling, or while the cutter is walking their strip, identify the hazards.
- 2) Assess the situation with others to determine the safest way possible to ground the hazards.
- 3) If possible, have a machine remove the hazard trees.
- 4) Create a plan of action and have another experienced faller working with the cutter.
- 5) Inspect all safety gear and equipment.
- 6) After the cutter has opened the strip up to the hazard, and has a safe place to fall the trees, reevaluate.
- 7) Ensure the second cutter is in a safe place and you have visual communication with them.
- 8) Clear escape path

Falling and Bucking Washington State law requires in 296-54-539

- Before falling or bucking, conditions such as, but not limited to, snow and ice accumulation, the wind, the lean of tree, dead limbs, and the location of other trees, must be evaluated by the cutter and precautions taken so a hazard is not created for an employee.
- Accumulations of snow and ice that may create a hazard for an employee must be removed before beginning falling in the area, or the area must be avoided.
- A competent person, properly experienced in this type of work, must be placed in charge of falling and bucking operations. Inexperienced workers must not be allowed to fall timber, buck logs or windfalls unless working under the direct supervision of an experienced cutter.
- If a cutter has determined a tree cannot be safely fell, the work must stop until the cutter has conferred with a supervisor or an experienced cutter and determined the safest possible work method or procedure.
- The person in charge of cutting crews must regularly inspect the work of the cutting crews and is responsible to ensure the work is performed in a proper and safe manner.
- One worker must not fall a tree or danger tree when the assistance of another worker is necessary to minimize the risk of injury caused by overhead hazards, loose bark, or interlocked limbs, conditions of the tree, terrain or cutting conditions.