



## 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.



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## Quarter 2 2020 Timber Cutting Training: Bucking Difficulties

Before assigning falling and/or bucking duties, the employer must ensure that employees have the training and skills necessary to do the job safely. The Logger Safety Initiative program requires an on-the-job evaluation of the falling and bucking procedures used by experienced timber cutting employees. The evaluation must be conducted by a competent and qualified person. New timber cutting employees with less than 150 working days of experience must not be allowed to work independently until their required training period is complete.

### Site Preparation

When preparing for a fell and buck setting there are a few vital pieces of information a timber cutter should know to minimize the risk of exposing themselves to a hazardous situation.

- What is the purpose for having the timber fell and bucked?
- Where is the landing going to be and is it adequate sized?
- What equipment is going to be used to handle the wood?
- Where is this wood going and what are the sorts?

Answering these questions will ultimately help one to minimize hazards they are exposed to. Knowing the logger and the equipment they have is useful information in the preparation of the logs. If the yarder and processor are adequate size, along with a good sized landing, leaving an occasional uncut log may not present a problem. Additionally, having an understanding of the sorts allows the cutter to choose cuts and log lengths that enable them to avoid hazards caused by poorly-chosen cuts.

### Bucking

Timber cutters must determine whether the log can be bucked safely before starting the job. Remember, no tree or log is worth getting hurt! If a cutter is unsure how to do their job safely, they should stop and ask another cutter for assistance or assessment.

- Before bucking a tree/log or blowdown/root wad look for: side bind, pivot points, elevated butts, and tops that could cause log movement.
- Clear an escape path so you can get away if a log moves.
- Never buck below previously bucked logs.
- Always stand on the uphill side of a log that could roll. If the diameter of the log requires a cut from both sides, start the cut on the downhill side and over exaggerate the amount of holding wood that is left. Finish the cut from the uphill side of the log.
- Keep a firm grip on the saw with both hands.
- Timber cutters must not over-extend or hold the saw in one hand. They must re-position themselves.



# WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

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- Cut only from a position that will not expose the cutter to risk of injury.
- When teamed up ensure all workers are clear of any hazards before bucking
- Two or more persons should not buck a tree at the same time. The release of energy may result in movement of the log.
- Never start a bucking cut if there's a chance you can't finish it.
- If it becomes too dangerous to complete a cut, the log must be marked and identified by a pre-determined method to warn the rigging crew of this hazard.
- Cutters shall not use the chain saw to cut directly overhead or at a distance that would require the operator to relinquish a safe grip on the saw.
- When a falling tree brushes a snag, or a weak/unstable tree, leave the tree un-bucked until the snag or defective tree is felled.
- Always be on the lookout for limbs or other objects hanging above in standing timber.

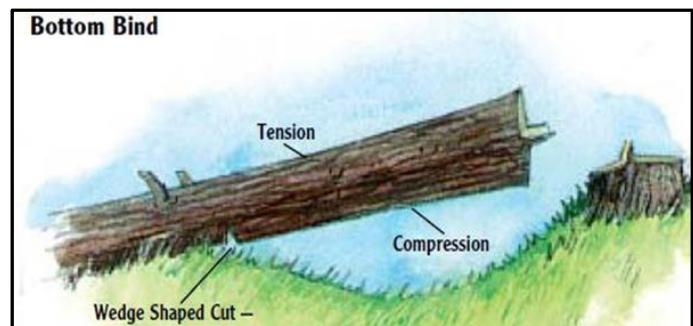
## Windfall and Windfall Roots

*It is important to note that only experienced timber cutters buck windfalls.*

- Windfall roots should not be approached from the root wad side.
- Timber cutters must avoid standing directly behind or downhill of a root wad. Never assume that a windfall root wad is safe because it has been down for a long time. It may still flip over unexpectedly.
- When bucking off a root wad, leave a short log on the root wad to prevent it from tipping toward you.
- Buck the bottom windfalls of a "jackpot" first to avoid top logs or material from rolling.
- Watch for loose bark when walking on windfalls; it could cause a serious fall.

## Bind

Bind can be expected in most felled trees. The best defense a cutter has to avoid injury and equipment damage is to examine the felled tree carefully. Determine any bind which may be present and what will happen when the bucked log is released. In general, start by cutting compression wood and finish by cutting the tension wood. A wedge shaped cut may need to be made if the tree is under a heavy bind.



Bind is made worse by uneven terrain and other material on the ground. Many serious accidents have occurred because cutters failed to recognize side bind while bucking. They positioned themselves on the side to which the bucked log "sprung" or swung upon release. When safe, buck from the side that is away from the bind, and take out the bind at the safest spot along the tree/blowdown.



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## Limbing

Avoid using the tip of the chainsaw bar when limbing. This can cause kickback to occur.

Timber cutters should be ready for limbs under tension. They may flip the saw towards the cutter when the limb is sawn off. Avoid touching other limbs with the backside or nose of the chain.