



April 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: Tree Risk Assessment

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Felling a hazard tree requires accurate risk assessment and complexity analysis, and demands the cutters full situational awareness. In all cases, remember to establish and maintain a secure felling area.

Do not bypass hazard trees without taking some action such as felling or establishing a No-Work-Zone.

Degree of hazard varies with tree size, species, and type/location of defect:

- Stem defects resulting in tree failure, i.e., collapse.
- Weakened sapwood resulting in loss of control when falling trees & limits solid wood for wedging.
- Overhead hazards, i.e., dead or hanging limbs falling on the faller.

Before falling

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.

It is imperative that the following criteria is met when assessing a falling difficulty:

Avoid "pushing" a danger tree, other than to overcome a falling difficulty. The top may break off or the danger tree may buckle in the middle and fall in your direction. The whole danger tree could sway and fall back onto the faller. Never push a danger tree with another danger tree. Most danger trees can be felled progressively with other timber

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.

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Before walking away, the cutter must do the following:

- Lodged trees must be clearly marked and identified
- Trees with face cuts and/or back cuts must not be left standing unless all the following conditions are met:
- Cutter clearly marks the trees that are cut
- Discontinues work in the hazardous area
- Notifies other workers who might be endangered; takes appropriate measures to ensure that the tree is safely fell before other work is undertaken in the hazardous area
- Do not work under hung up/cut up trees!
- Do not turn your back on a hung up/cut up tree!



Safety is always number one

Keep in mind some of these practices, like domino falling, are dangerous and are to only be used when falling a single tree into a danger tree to overcome a falling difficulty. State and Federal laws are set in place to ensure that cutters are not making this an everyday practice with the intent to bypass safety and increase production.

Please spend time reviewing the following incident, talk as a group with your cutting partners, know when to walk away, and never take unnecessary chances. Safety is always number one.

Timber Cutter Killed When Struck by Alder Snag Top

Task: Hand falling **Occupation:** Cutter **Release Date:** 2020

In September 2015, a 49-year-old cutter with over 20 years of experience died after he was struck in the torso by an alder top. The victim had just felled a 14-inch diameter alder, which was five feet from the base of an adjacent alder that had a broken top. The cutter seemed to be unaware that the tree that he previously felled was potentially limb bound with the broken snag top. As he went to start facing up the alder with the broken top in it, the 15-foot long by 9-inch diameter broken top came free and fell about 45 feet from the standing tree, striking the cutter on his left side as he was bent over, causing fatal injuries.



Location of the cutter (“X”) when he was struck by the limb bound alder top.



Stump of the tree that the cutter had felled and the alder in which he had begun to make an under cut.

Safety Requirements

- 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. See [WAC 296-54-539\(8\)](#).
- 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. See [WAC 296-54-539\(2\)](#).
- 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. See [WAC 296-54-539\(11\)](#).

Recommended Safe Practices

- Always make a thorough risk assessment of hazards in your work area.
- Always utilize available escape paths once a tree is committed to its fall, and remain at a safe distance from the stump until all disturbances have settled before proceeding to the next tree.

