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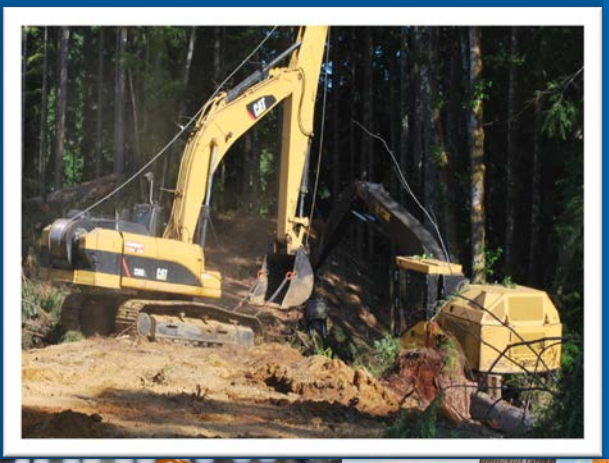

Tether Machines

General Overview

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Tether Machines

- New technology
- Still learning safe operations and limitations
- Changing the industry quickly
- Need to address impacts on those with highest exposure (i.e. cutters and rigging crews).
- How many of you have worked with a tether machine?

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Labor and Industries Current Role with Tether Machines

Finalizing the Best Management and Operating Practices document with large stakeholder group.

- Landowner reps, manufacturer reps, operators, timber fallers, and Dept. of Natural Resources

How does LSI view tether machines?

- If manual logging occurs after being cut by a tether machine it impacts 5001 workers.
- Tether machines could have DOSH consultation visits as part of the annual LSI consult.
- If the tether machines are subcontractors and operating on job during LSI visit they may be included in the consult.

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Potential Benefits for Rigging Crews

- Wood is bunched. Better ends when setting chokers.
- Operators can lay out wood, creating better paths for getting in the clear.
- Less strenuous work to gain production.
- Operators can remove overhead hazards along RMZ’s and cutting lines.

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Potential Hazards for Rigging Crews

- Potential for crews to push “getting in the clear” with bunched piles from becoming complacent. Don’t let this happen.
- Greater potential to plug up the landing.
- When working out of piles there’s a potential to grab more per turn, careful consideration must be given not to overload the system.
- Lower stumps on the hillside can increase potential for a struck by hazard in the event a log or chunk becomes dislodged.
- In some cases, deep ruts being created by tethering machines creating tripping hazards.

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Cut off section left on stump

Leaving chunks in the unit could potentially pose a danger to the rigging crew.

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Potential Changes for Cutters

Each operation works together differently. Below are variations seen in current operations:

- Move cutters in first or second depending on the unit.
- Flag out hand falling areas and have cutters works first.
- GPS hand falling, give map to cutters and have them go first.
- Cutters get what the tether machine can’t, thus, putting cutters potentially hazardous working conditions.
- Cut all lines that have timber adjacent.
- Working at same time as tether machine, stay in constant communication.
- Either cut all with tether or all by hand, no mixing.

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Feedback Gathered from Cutters

- Increased fatigue. Walking and packing gear across steep slopes to timber.
- Must work for several contractors to stay busy.
- It’s the future of logging.
- New operators are challenging to work around.
- Hard to compete with machines that bunch the wood.
- Tethering machines make it safer in blow down or snag units.
- Increasingly difficult to train new cutters with less consistent work on poor ground.

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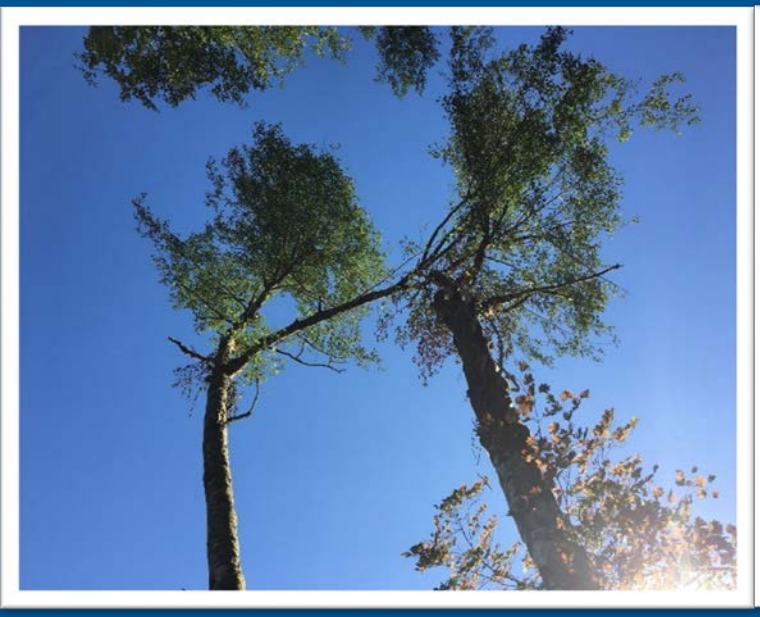
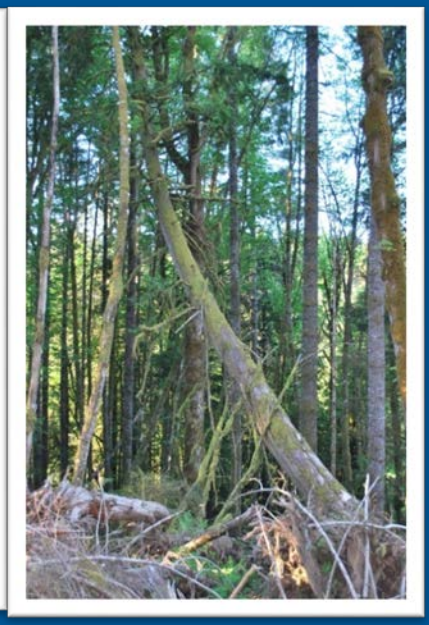
Potential Hazards





Widow makers, brushed in trees, and pushed over tree

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Potential Hazards

Trees felled into standing timber and ruts

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Solutions

- Communication
- Planning
- Protect those subjected to the highest hazard
- Evaluate each unit
- Train operators on hazards they create
- Work together

WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.