



# WASHINGTON STATE LOGGER SAFETY INITIATIVE

Keeping Washington loggers safe.

## Logger Safety Initiative Safety Training –Second Quarter Logging 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) Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) trainings on an annual basis.

### **What documentation is required?**

LSI employers will document that the training took place as part of their safety minutes. Be sure that 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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## Pre-setting Choker-LSI Training

Pre-setting chokers can be done safely and efficiently given the right ground and experienced crew. The Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) program requires a pre-setting plan **prior** to beginning any pre-setting. This allows the crew to identify areas that can't be pre-set, and to plan where it can be done safely and how it will be completed. It is critical to both pick the ground that is safe and to have an experienced crew. This training is about getting crews to put thought and planning into pre-setting prior to starting work.

The LSI logging accident prevention program has specific requirements that must be followed if loggers are going to pre-set on a unit. They include the following:

- Before pre-setting a plan must be written by the owner, hook tender or supervisor and reviewed with the entire rigging crew. If a new person is brought to work on that side the plan must be reviewed with them.
- No pre-setting of chokers in areas made unsafe by runaway logs.
- Do not split crews on the hillside when the ground is so steep that it could send material back down on the lower crew.
- If the crew is split up on the hillside, the top crew needs to be well in the clear when the turn from the lower crew passes.
- Workers must remain clear of standing trees and saplings that could be pulled over by lateral yarding; they must also remain clear of upending and swinging logs. Partially pulled over trees must be removed before yarding commences or continues in the hazardous area.
- Before giving the “go ahead” signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all workers in the near vicinity are in the clear. It is recommended that two-way radios be used to ensure effective communication.
- Workers pre-setting must be able to hear audible signals.
- When pre-setting chokers on both sides of the line, there must be at least one signaling device at each location.
- **Never** cross under or over a yarding line until the line/rigging is stopped

Below is a copy of the required written pre-setting choker safety plan.

## Written Safety Plan for Pre-setting Chokers

Before starting pre-setting operations on a new setting, the employer, jobsite supervisor or hook tender must develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting will be conducted in a safe manner. The following safety plan must be reviewed with all rigging crew members before starting to pre-set on a new setting.

Purpose and objectives:

- Ensure that the rigging crew understands the inherent hazards of pre-setting.
- Ensure that safe work practices are being followed at all times.
- Ensure that employees are in the clear of logs, root wads, chunks, hazardous trees, rolling material, and rigging before the go-ahead signal is given and remain in the clear until all rigging movement has stopped.

The following safe work practices must be adhered to:

1. No pre-setting of chokers in areas made unsafe by runaway logs such as steep side hills, draws and directly under the landing. **List areas in the setting to be avoided:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do not split crews on the hillside when the ground is so steep that it could send material back down on the lower crew. If you plan to split the crews, are there any areas to be avoided?  
**List areas:** \_\_\_\_\_
3. If the crew is split up on the hillside, the top crew needs to be well in the clear when the turn from the lower crew passes.
4. Workers must remain clear of standing trees and saplings that could be pulled over by lateral yarding; they must also remain clear of upending and swinging logs. Partially pulled over trees must be removed before yarding commences or continues in the hazardous area.
5. Before giving the “go ahead” signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all workers in the near vicinity are in the clear.
6. Workers pre-setting must be able to hear audible signals.
7. When pre-setting chokers on both sides of the line, there must be at least one signaling device at each location.
8. **Never** cross under or over a yarding line until the line/rigging is stop

## Best Practice:

- Continuously evaluate whether pre-setting can be done safely and stop if becomes unsafe.
- If crews are split there needs to be a trained experienced rigging slinger at each location chokers are being set.
- Make sure the crew understands they are not to push the limits of presetting and have the authority to stop if it becomes unsafe.
- Avoid pre-setting near the landing.
- Review the hazards of lateral pulls with the crews.
- Keep crews within sight of each other at all times.

**Case 1:** On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 a 30 year old choker setter with over two years of experience was struck in the head with a limb while presetting. The 3 man crew was split up on each side of the skyline and on each side of a ridge. Each choker setter had bugs and a radio and were considered to be experienced rigging slingers. After the rigging slinger on one side of the skyline hooked up his chokers and got in the clear he blew a go ahead whistle. The two choker setters were on the other side of the skyline setting their chokers and not facing the rigging. A limb was flung up by the haul back and struck the choker man in the head.

### Safety Requirements and Safe Practices

LSI requires the completion of a pre-setting choker plan to identify areas where it is not safe to preset. Crews working on each side of a ridge where they do not have sight of each other is not a safe place to pre-set.

Crews must be facing the rigging and in the clear before the go ahead whistle is blown.

They all had brush radios and did not communicate with each other prior to sending in the turn.

**Case 2:** On November 24, 2014 a 25 year old rigging slinger with over 2 years of experience was fatally injured after being struck by an upending log while presetting. The two man crew was pre-setting on each side of the skyline and the rigging slinger was cleared out in a draw below the turn. The crew could not see each other, but they did have voice communication. The choker setter on the uphill side hollered to see if the slinger was clear. He yelled back that he was, and the go ahead signal was given. The slinger was not in the clear and struck in the head by an upending log.

### **Safety Requirements and Safe Practices**

Crews must be facing the rigging and in the clear before the go ahead whistle is blown.

LSI requires the completion of a pre-setting choker plan to identify areas where it is not safe to preset. Crews working on each side of a ridge where they do not have sight of each other is not a safe place to preset.

Make sure that there is visual confirmation that all are in the clear prior to the go ahead whistle being blown.

Do not clear out on the downhill side of the turn being sent in.

**Case 3:** On March 25, 2014 a 3 man rigging crew was pre-setting choker when one choker setter was struck by a log that upended hospitalizing him. The two choker setters were on one side of the skyline and the rigging slinger on the other. The crew was setting their chokers when the go ahead whistle was blown and one was struck in the leg and hip with an upending log. The slinger did have sight of the crew before he blew the whistle.

### **Safety Requirements and Safe Practices**

Crews must be facing the rigging and in the clear before the go ahead whistle is blown.

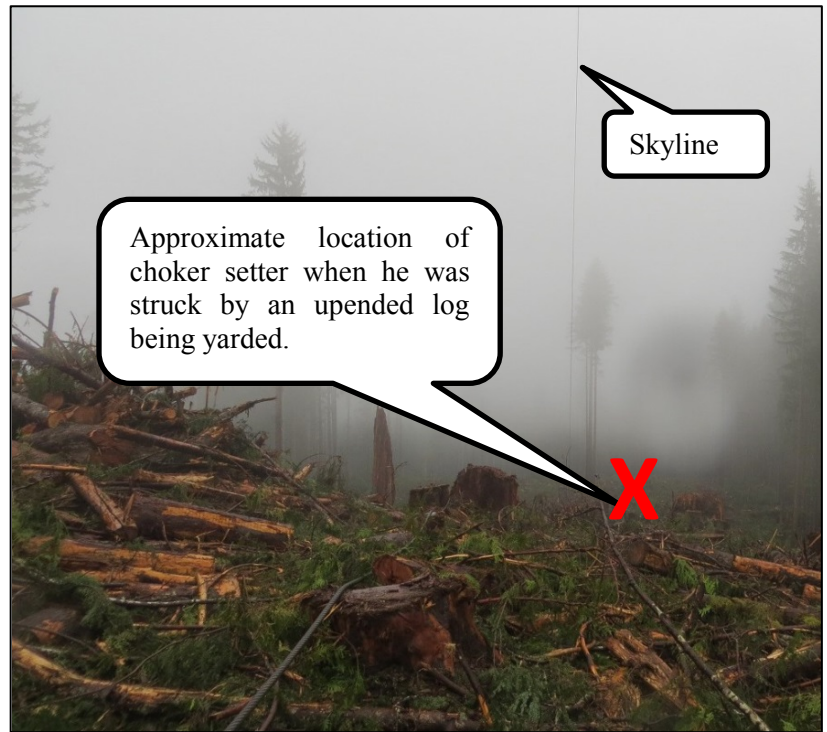
## Choker Setter Injured When Struck by Log

**Task:** Pre-setting chokers

**Occupation:** Choker setter

**Release Date:** October 24, 2014

On March 25, 2014, a 41-year-old choker setter pre-setting chokers was seriously injured when he was struck by a log being yarded. A four-man rigging crew with a rigging slinger and three choker setters were working on a 30% slope about 500 feet from the landing. The choker setters were on one side of the skyline and the rigging slinger was on the other side. After the crew had rigged a three-log turn, the choker setters began pre-setting chokers for the next turn. The rigging slinger gave the go-ahead signal and the yarder operator began moving the turn to the landing. Two of the choker setters were not in the clear of the turn. As the turn moved uphill, one of the logs in the turn upended and swung toward them. One choker setter dived under the moving log; the other choker setter was struck in the hip by the log and was seriously injured.



### Safety Requirements

During yarding operations:

- Employees must move away from the turn so as to be above or behind the turn in the clear. They must remain on their feet and face the turn before the go-ahead signal is given. See WAC 296-54-577(5).

### Recommended Safe Practices

- Before starting pre-setting operations at a new site, the employer, jobsite supervisor, or hooktender must develop a written safety plan to ensure that pre-setting chokers will be conducted in a safe manner.
- The rigging slinger must ensure that all members of the crew are in the clear before giving the go-ahead signal.
- Before giving the go-ahead signal, make visual or audible voice contact to ensure all members of the crew are in the clear.
- Choker setters must not set their chokers until a turn clears their area and they are in the clear.
- Remember it's never you until it is – keep the team safe by reporting hazards.

### Resources\*

- Free workplace safety and health consultations are available from L&I at: [www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov](http://www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov)
- Free video from Labor & Industries, “Be Safe in the Woods” at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/lni/shrl/VideoDetails.aspx?VideoID=1490>
- Accident Prevention Program for Logging Operations. Washington State Logger Safety Initiative at: [www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSILoggingOperationsSampleAPP.doc](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSILoggingOperationsSampleAPP.doc)

\*These internet links have been shortened for publication and will not operate in your web browser as written. To access these resources, please go to the SHARP publications page at [www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Pubs/](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/Pubs/), click on *Logging*, open this document and follow the links from there. Prepared by Randy Clark, WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant# 5 U60 OH008487-09).

