



## 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.

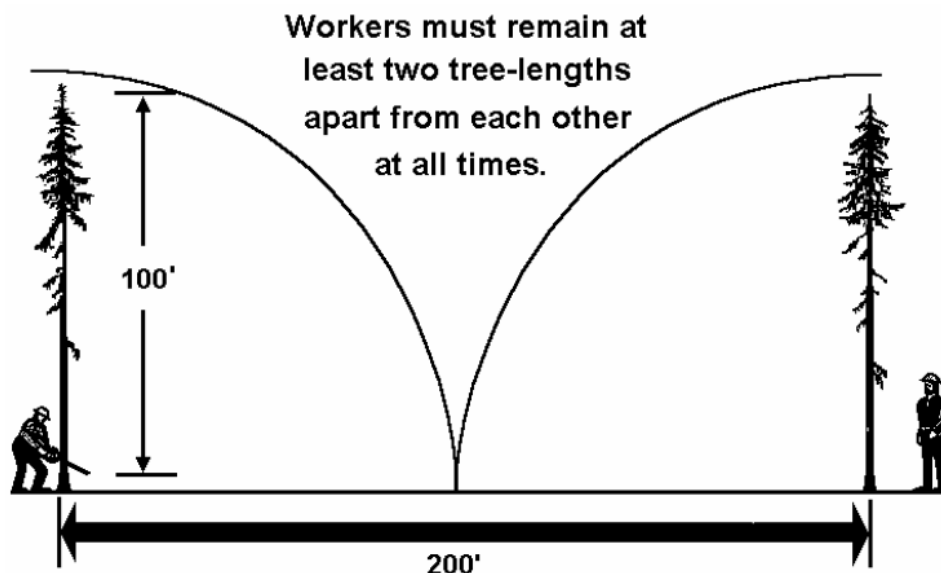
### What documentation is required?

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.

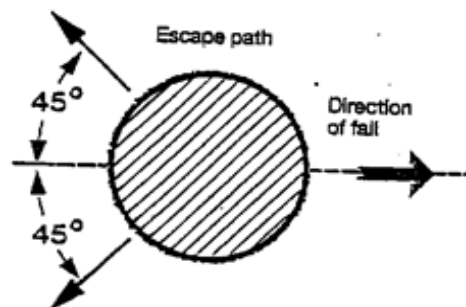
## In the Clear Cutting Training – Q2 2018

Please review the “In the Clear” safety requirement of the Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) program listed below (\*Note, this is not a complete list). Read the safety questions, Hazard Briefs and Injury Alerts and discuss them as a group.

### LSI “In the Clear” Safety Requirements:



- The minimum distance to be maintained between a working faller and any other worker is two tree lengths. *Exception: This rule does not apply to a team of cutters working on the same tree.*
- A cutter must not be placed on a hillside immediately below another cutter or below logging operations where there is probable danger. Do not stack cutters on a hillside. The employer must assign work areas so that trees cannot fall, slide or roll into another occupied work area.
- Plan your escape path and an alternate route in case the tree does not fall according to plan.
- Choose and clear out an escape path in back of, uphill, and at an angle away from the stumps. **Your escape path must allow you to move at least 10 feet from the stump.**
- When the tree is committed use your escape path and quickly move a safe distance away.



***Not being in the clear is still a leading cause for serious injury and death to cutters.***

## Commonly heard reasons for not being in the clear:

- Steering the tree.
- Grabbing wedge while the tree was falling.
- The tree was “going over fine” and the cutter didn’t move away.
- The cutter didn’t want to walk the extra steps.
- Didn’t get in the clear because they were falling the tree in the open.
- Ran out of room and began working closer than two tree-lengths.
- A feller buncher brushed the tree in and the cutter couldn’t get away.
- Logs were decked against the oversized timber.

## There is never a reason to not be in the clear!

- Management and lead workers must properly train employees, set expectations, and hold everyone accountable for being in the clear.
- Never become complacent.
- Most accidents happen within 10 feet of the stump.
- Always maintain two tree-lengths. If your setting gets tight, shut down one cutter or team up.
- Never place a cutter downhill from another cutter to work.
- Plan your strips and communicate every 30 minutes.
- Don’t fall trees that are too brushed up. Wait for it to be logged out first.
- Don’t fall a tree if logs, root wads, or debris make it unsafe.

## Safety Questions for Discussion:

- Do you always get away from the stump?
- Are jobs planned before starting work?
- Does your crew discuss in the clear hazards when starting a new unit?
- Have you ever spoke up when you saw someone not in the clear?
- Have you ever consciously not got in the clear?
- Is risking your own life worth saving few steps?
- Do you fall trees within two tree-lengths? Is risking your life, or the life of your coworker, worth working like that?
- Have there been any in the clear near misses lately? When was the last time you reported a hazard observation?

## Timber Faller Killed When Struck by Maple Top

**Task:** Falling timber **Occupation:** Faller **Release Date:** August 2017

In September of 2015, a 62-year-old timber faller died after he was struck in the abdomen and pelvis by a maple top. The victim had over 40 years' experience in the logging industry and was highly regarded as a skilled timber faller. The day of the incident was the victim's first day at this logging site. He was brought in to hand fall oversized trees that were too big for the feller buncher. The site supervisor, who operated the feller buncher, walked around the slightly sloping site with the victim to show him the locations of these trees. As they were walking the site, the victim noticed a maple top that was limb-bound with the cedar that he was going to fall. He expressed concern to the supervisor that this could be a problem. The supervisor told him that if he did not think he could cut the cedar tree safely that he would use the feller buncher or loader to knock down the hung-up maple tree. The supervisor left the decision of what to do with the victim. The victim decided to fall the cedar. He cut the cedar and as he was moving away from the falling tree, the 37-foot-long maple top fell on him, causing fatal injuries.



Incident scene showing a reenactment of the faller's location after he was struck by a maple top that fell when he cut and felled a cedar tree (stump in upper right).

### Safety Requirements

- 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. See [WAC 296-54-539\(2\)](#)
- Danger trees that are unsafe to cut must be blown down with explosives or fell by other safe methods. See [WAC 296-54-53930\(2\)](#)

### Recommended Safe Practices

- Use the safest possible method to remove danger trees and hung-up limbs and tree tops. In this instance, using a machine to remove the limb or tree would have removed the hazard.
- No matter how much experience you have, if something does not feel right, stop, evaluate the situation, and make a new plan.

### Resources

- In the Clear training packet from the Washington Logger Safety Initiative (LSI):  
[www.lni.wa.gov/Main/LoggerSafety/Pdfs/TrainingPacketInTheClearCutting.pdf](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/LoggerSafety/Pdfs/TrainingPacketInTheClearCutting.pdf)
- Video: Faller recounts how he worked for 37 years accident free:  
[www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=37764](http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?ReportID=37764)
- LSI Sample Accident Prevention Program for Cutting Operations:  
[www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSICuttingOpera](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSICuttingOpera)

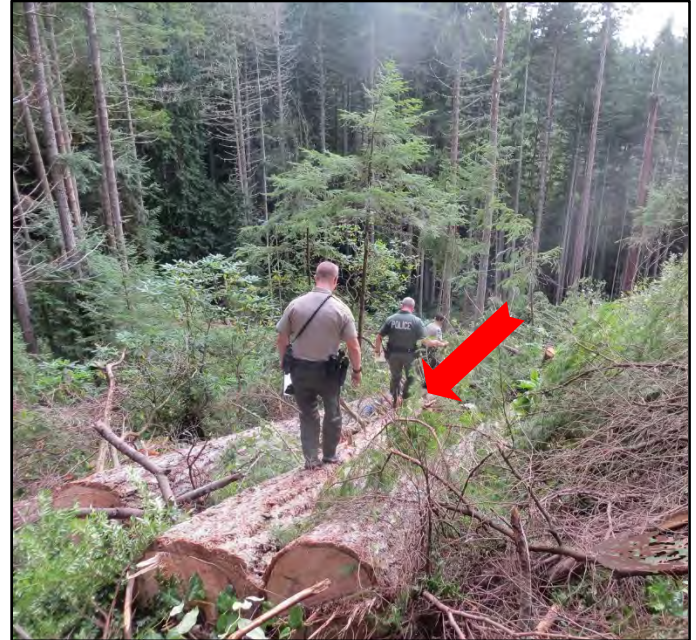
## Timber Cutter Struck by Falling Fir Tree

**Task:** Falling and bucking timber

**Occupation:** Cutter

**Release Date:** December 5, 2016

In September 2014, a 24-year-old cutter died when he was struck by a tree felled by his employer. Previously the cutter had worked for four years on a rigging crew. He wanted to learn to cut timber and had been working directly under the supervision of his new employer for one month. The employer had cut timber for nearly 30 years. The employer was contracted to cut timber while another company was running the cable operation at the site. On the day of the incident, the cutter and his employer were working on a brushy 45-degree slope with large fir trees. They were working as fast as they could because the rigging crew was catching up to them. As they worked their way up the hill, the strip narrowed. The employer decided that they needed to team up, otherwise they would be working too close to each other. The employer felled a tree and told the cutter to buck it. As the cutter was bucking the felled tree, the employer made an undercut in a fir uphill from the cutter. The employer then noticed the cutter walking uphill and behind him, away from the tree he had been bucking. Believing that the cutter was out of the fall zone, he felled the tree. He then felled a third tree alongside the others. Next he proceeded to put an undercut and then a backcut deep enough to install two wedges in a fourth tree. About 15 minutes had passed since he had felled the second tree and he had not seen the cutter, so he went to look for him. He discovered that the cutter had been struck and fatally injured by the second felled tree. The cutter was located 69 feet downhill from the second tree's stump. Five-foot brush in the area may have hampered site lines.



Incident scene showing the three felled fir trees. The middle tree struck the cutter, fatally injuring him. The arrow shows where the cutter was bucking the log when the tree struck him.

### Safety Requirements

- Cutters must give audible warning when falling trees and ensure that all employees are out of reach of the tree. See [WAC 296-54-53910\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- The undercut must not be made while other workers are in an area into which the tree could fall. See [WAC 296-54-53910\(13\)](#)
- The employer must develop a formal accident prevention program, tailored to the needs of the particular logging operation and to the type of hazards involved. The program must be implemented in a manner that is effective in practice. See [WAC 296-54-515\(1\)](#)

### Recommended Safe Practices

- When cutters can no longer keep a two-tree distance between them and decide to team up, they must agree to a plan that does not put either of them at risk. For example, both cutters stand side-by-side while one cutter falls two trees. They then both buck the felled trees.
- Communication between cutters is essential for safety. Always know where your partner is located. Never cut a tree before making sure that your partner is in the clear. Tell your partner if you need to go somewhere, and get confirmation from them that they understand your intentions before you leave for another location.
- Ensure that new cutters are thoroughly trained in all communication protocols.

### Resources

- Accident Prevention Program for Cutting Operations:  
[www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSICuttingOperationsSampleAPP.doc](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainingPrevention/Programs/files/LSICuttingOperationsSampleAPP.doc)
- In the Clear training packet from the Washington Logger Safety Initiative (LSI):  
[www.lni.wa.gov/Main/LoggerSafety/Pdfs/TrainingPacketInTheClearCutting.pdf](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/LoggerSafety/Pdfs/TrainingPacketInTheClearCutting.pdf)
- Video: Faller recounts how he worked for 37 years accident free:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgd\\_wyckyXw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgd_wyckyXw)

## Communication with Cutters

Entering or working in an active timber falling area without a way to communicate with cutters is dangerous!

Timber cutter concerns include:

- Foresters going around timber falling signs to talk to cutters.
- Cutters working near logging operations without a way to communicate.



Inform cutters before entering a timber falling area



Operate machines two tree lengths from cutters

### Lack of communication puts everyone at risk!

#### Recommendations

- Anyone that needs to approach cutters, and operators working in the vicinity of cutters, should carry a two-way radio, know the channel the cutters are using, and have spare batteries.
- Landowners should train field staff on how to safely approach logging operations.

#### Requirements

WAC 296-54-53910:

(3) Cutters must be informed of the movement and location of other employees placed, passing, or approaching the vicinity of trees being fell.

(5) While manual falling is in progress, all logging machines must be operated at least two lengths away from trees being manually fell.

Prepared by WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (WA FACE) program. WA FACE is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant 2U00H008487).

## Road builders can create hazards for loggers & cutters

Road builders are the first ones into a logging unit. Without proper planning, they can create hazards for the next phase in the harvest operations.  
**Don't leave hazards for those working behind you!**

**Do not stack material against standing timber**



Root wads and debris pushed against standing timber.

**End haul material to a spoil area when it can't be safely stacked**



Root wads left over hillside against standing timber.

**Ground all hazards**



Tree pushed into standing timber by a dozer.



## Unnecessary hazards for hand fallers!

WAC 296-54-533 (6) Trees or snags that may fall into the road must be fell. (7) Root wads, logs, and other unstable debris must not be placed against standing timber or otherwise placed so as to create a hazard for timber falling or other logging operations.

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