

## Safety Briefing for January 2019

### Topic: **Safety working on Storm Damaged Timber**

**Introduction:** Wood under tension from a natural disaster is a life-threatening risk. Damage from hurricanes, tornados and ice storms presents severe risk from exposure to tension wood and overhead hazards. If possible, let the timber “rest” before salvage operations begin to allow some of the tension to relax. Be alert for all overhead hazards! Lodged trees, broken tops, and snags are proven killers in the logging woods, LOOK-UP!! Be careful of difficult ground conditions, walking through the damaged limbs and debris is particularly hazardous. This is true even more so if you are carrying a chain saw. Use your chain brake! If more than two steps are taken with a running saw, engage the chain brake!

### **OVER-HEAD HAZARDS**

Catastrophic injury and death are the results of Over-Head Hazards! To fight this risk, we must be aware and LOOK UP!!

- Proper head-eye and ear PPE is mandatory. Look Up and Out! Identify possible risk from above.
- Don't place your body under anything that could fall, this includes equipment.
- Maintain at least two tree lengths from any felling operation.
- Be visible!!! Wear high visible clothing.

### **MAINTAIN PROPER WORKING DISTANCES**

Ground personnel and moving logging equipment can create extreme risk.

- Awareness is the key for avoiding a “too close” incident.
- Proper PPE is to be worn at all times and high visibility clothing is essential.
- Maintain at least two tree lengths from any felling operation.
- Toppers should maintain proper distance from skidding activities and use shield trees if possible.
- Machine operators should never enter a “safe zone” provided for ground personnel.
- All employees must be aware of “blind spots” on the logging equipment.
- Be especially cautious in and around the deck area, it's a busy place!

### **SLIPS/TRIPS/FALLS**

Very serious injuries occur frequently in and around a logging operation with storm damaged timber.

- Be alert and aware. Be focused! Keep your mind on the business at hand!
- Always use the 3-point of contact technique while mounting and dismounting equipment.
- Keep platforms, steps and handles free from grease, oil and other foreign material.
- Maintain a firm grip while entering or exiting a machine.
- Proper footwear with good ankle support is mandatory. (No sneakers)
- Avoid climbing or walking on felled trees or limbs.
- Stay on the “good-side” of tension-wood! The “bad-side” is the outside “bow” of tension-wood.
- Stay on the “uphill” side of felled timber and limbs.
- When not cutting, make sure the chain brake is engaged and use proper felling techniques.

Never put ground personnel at risk when the mechanical option is available.

- Fully enclosed equipment and rotational felling heads not only greatly reduce risk levels but also adds to the efficiency of the operation.
- Pull-through and stroke delimiters, as well as other mechanical processing equipment increase safety and productivity on the modern logging job.

*\$afety Pay\$*

# **SAFETY MEETING AGENDA**

**COMPANY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Safety While Working On Storm Damaged Timber**

**Employees present:**

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**MEETING PREPARED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Safety Briefing for February 2019

### **Topic: Cold Weather Injuries**

**Introduction:** I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW that cold stress, or "hypothermia," can occur any time of year? In fact, most cases of cold stress develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Background:** Winter weather is just around the corner, but did you know employees who are exposed to lower temperatures are at greater risk for injuries ranging from frostbite to serious loss of body heat which could result in brain damage or even death.

**What must an employee know:** To protect yourself from cold weather injuries:

- ❑ **Dress warm:** Preserving an air space between the body and the outer layer of clothing will help retain body heat. Choose fabrics such as cotton or wool, which insulate but also allow sweat to evaporate. It is especially important to protect the feet, hands, head, and face. These parts of the body are farthest from the heart and are the hardest to keep warm.
- ❑ **Keep dry:** Wetness greatly increases the chance of cold stress. Always have extra clothing available if there's a chance you could get wet. Keep feet dry, they are very susceptible to frostbite.
- ❑ **Take a break:** You may think it's wise to keep on working in cold temperatures. After all, working makes you break a sweat and you feel warmer. But if you become fatigued during physical activity, your body loses its ability to properly retain heat. This causes rapid cooling which can quickly lead to cold stress.
- ❑ **Eat right:** A proper diet provides your body with the nutrients it needs to withstand cold stress. A restrictive diet may deprive your body the ability to work well in cold temperatures.
- ❑ **Don't work alone:** In cold-stress prone environments, a buddy system should be used. Look out for one another and be alert for the symptoms of cold stress.
- ❑ **Learn what to look out for:** The effects of cold stress may not be apparent to its victim. The first symptoms of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering and the sensation of cold. The heartbeat slows and may become irregular, and the pulse weakens. As the condition worsens, severe shaking or rigid muscles may be evident. The victim may also have slurred speech, memory lapses, and drowsiness. Cool skin, slow, irregular breathing, and exhaustion occur as the body temperature drops even lower. This is a serious condition requiring immediate medical attention.
- ❑ **Frostbite:** can occur without accompanying hypothermia. Frostbite occurs when the fluids around the body's tissues freeze. The most vulnerable parts of the body are the nose, cheeks, ears, fingers, and toes. Symptoms of frostbite include coldness and tingling in the affected part, followed by numbness; changes in skin color to white or grayish-yellow, initial pain, which subsides as the condition worsens, and possibly blisters. Frostbite can cause irreversible tissue damage and requires immediate medical attention.

*Remember, it doesn't have to be freezing for cold stress to occur. Take steps to protect yourself.*

**\$AFETY PAYS**

**MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:  
(SAFETY MEETING AGENDA)**

**COMPANY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Cold Weather Injuries**

**Employees present:**

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**Old Business** – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

**Accidents/Near Misses** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since last meeting. Brief summary of accident(s). Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.

**Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.

**New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new machinery procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

**MEETING CHAIRED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Safety Briefing for March 2019

### **Topic: Driving Reminders for a Safe Trip**

**Background:** Log and chip trucks travel on many different types of roads. The surface can be concrete, asphalt, crush and run, or dirt and gravel. As far as danger goes, each surface has hazards associated with them. Recent injuries have occurred because truck drivers, failed to account for the conditions that traffic presented or the driving habits of those around you. Employers should make employees aware of the following:

### **Following other log trucks or chip vans**

Several recent accidents highlight the need for drivers of log trucks or chip vans to be aware that following too close to log trucks with overhanging logs is dangerous and has proven fatal in two recent incidents.

- Never follow too close to a truck/trailer combination with overhanging logs.
- Stay back at the recommended following distance (2 to 3 second rule).
- Use flagging and/or flashing strobe lights according to your state's requirements.

### **Proper procedures to overtake and pass long tractor/trailers**

- Make sure you are in a passing zone.
- As you cross the center line be prepared for oncoming traffic at side roads or hidden hills.
- Watch for soft shoulders, guide posts and wildlife as you pass.
- Use enough speed to overtake the vehicle without exceeding the speed limit - changing down a gear may give you enough engine power to get past.
- Maintain a safe speed you do not have to hard brake after you reenter the lane.
- Do not pass a turning vehicle at an intersection unless it is safe to do so.

### **Tail Swing**

An ever-increasing number of accidents have occurred that involve tail swing. Tail swing almost always occurs on the blind side of the rig. For drivers, it is important to remember that anything beyond the rear axle (the fulcrum point) will pivot as you turn. Watch out for oncoming traffic, and traffic to the left or right. A good sense of space/distance awareness is essential. Property damage is normally the major result of tail swing but injuries and fatalities have occurred in vehicles around the log truck.

- Do not take turns with excessive speed as it exaggerates the tail swing.
- Do not rely on mirrors as you develop a blind spot during the turn.
- Remember the extreme rear of the load will move horizontally and will collide with vehicles in adjoining lanes of traffic.
- Make sure logs are secured on the rear bunk to prevent them from falling in case you impact a bus, car, other truck or a wall. Fatalities have occurred when the load is not secured.

***\$AFETY PAYS***

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**COMPANY NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Driving Reminders for a Safe Trip**

**Employees present:**

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