

Idaho Logging Safety

News



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2006 FIRST AID TRAINING SCHEDULED

Once again the annual first aid classes are coming up in March and April. These are for all loggers in Idaho, and we also encourage their spouses to attend. There will be complementary coffee and doughnuts provided by local equipment dealers and served at 7 a.m. The classes will start promptly at 8 a.m. and finish by noon. Along with the first aid and emergency rescue, we will also be providing training in hazard communication, tagout and energy control, bloodborne pathogens and hearing conservation that are required by OSHA on an annual basis.

Please note on the schedule that the classes that are marked with an asterisk will be followed by a

1½ day LEAP update. These are put on by the University of Idaho Extension. To register for these you need to contact your extension office and also make arrangements for your own lunch.

There will also be Pro-Logger Training again this spring for the loggers south of the Salmon River. The Idaho Department of Lands folks will put on an eight-hour training session. The location and time will be announced later.

We would appreciate it if you would call the ALC office in Coeur d'Alene with an approximate number of employees who will be attending the first aid classes, especially in St. Maries (208-667-6473 or 1-800-632-8743).

CITY	DATE	LOCATION
Orofino *	Wednesday, March 1	Armory, 10210 Hwy 12
New Meadows	Thursday, March 2	New Meadows Senior Center
Coeur d'Alene *	Tuesday, March 7	Armory, 5555 E. Seltice Way
Sandpoint	Wednesday, March 8	Bonner County Fairground
Troy *	Thursday, March 9	Troy Lion's Club, Main St. **
St. Maries (1) *	Tuesday, March 14	Eagles, 707 Main St.
Harvard (Potlatch)	Wednesday, March 15	Pines RV Park, 4510 Hwy 6, Harvard
Pierce	Thursday, March 16	Pierce Community Center
Bonnars Ferry *	Tuesday, March 21	Boundary County Fairgrounds
Wallace	Wednesday, March 22	Elk's Temple, 419 Cedar St.**
St. Maries (2)	Thursday, March 23	Eagle's, 707 Main St.
Grangeville	Tuesday, April 11	Elk's Lodge, 111 S. Meadow
Emmett	Wednesday, April 12	Gem County Senior Citizens Center
St. Anthony	Thursday, April 13	South Freemont Senior Center 420 N. Bridge St. D

(Note, there are a few address changes **)

In Memory

SAFETY CREW — ONE SHORT



David Kludt — July 31, 1944, to Jan. 19, 2006

As this newsletter was headed to the printer, we regrettably had to add this note at the last minute. Dave Kludt, the originator of the Idaho Logging Safety Program and our boss, passed away in a traffic accident while driving home after a long day's work getting things prepared for this spring's first aid classes.

Time, plus the fact we are complete messes, does not allow us to write too much about David at this time. We do know what all of you loggers around the state meant to David and we also know what he meant to all of you.

After hearing the news, a logger asked, "Dave was the best man, ever, wasn't he?" Yes sir, he was.

Having him for a boss and a best friend makes us three very lucky fellows.

- Don, Cliff and Galen

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

By David Kludt

We decided to go ahead and run this last "What's Been Happening" article that Dave Kludt wrote to honor his commitment to helping keep all of the loggers he cared about on the right side of safe.

It's hard to believe but we've made it through another winter. I'm not sure what normal is anymore. The weather was perfect in December until we got our January thaw before Christmas that continued well into the new year. Yes, we've heard about a number of accidents this winter, but as I write this there has been nothing serious.

By the time this letter comes out most of you will be into spring breakup and ready for that "go to meetings" time of the year. As you can see by the first aid schedule, classes will be starting

on the first of March and continuing into April. Hopefully we'll see you at one of the classes. There are also numerous other training opportunities available this spring and for those of you who need credits for your Pro-Logger status, call the ALC (1-800-632-8743) in Coeur d'Alene for an update.

We ended up with two logging fatalities in 2005. Every time I look at one of these it bothers me more. You never know for sure what happened other than one second of timing could have made the difference between something bad and a near miss.

That's about all for this winter. Hopefully you'll have a short layoff and be back in the woods soon.

SOME OF THAT TRAINING DOES PAY OFF!

Every spring in the first aid classes considerable time is spent on emergency rescue. Two of the main things that Dan Musselman talks about are knowing WHERE YOU ARE and WHO TO CALL. Last spring Dan pushed very hard on the point that a GPS unit could prove to be invaluable in getting the location so a helicopter would know exactly where to go.

One outfit in my area really took this to heart and purchased four GPS units. When I saw them last summer they showed me the units, but they were not sure how to get a GPS reading on them.

We spent a few minutes playing with the units and sure enough, they did work.

Last fall this same outfit was working nearly two hours from town when they had the misfortune of having a man get injured. They quickly called State Comm. with a GPS reading and were amazed at how quickly the helicopter arrived (just like it says in the book). It turned out that the man was not injured as seriously as first thought but they wanted me to relay the message that this really does work!!!

THINK ABOUT YOUR LANDINGS

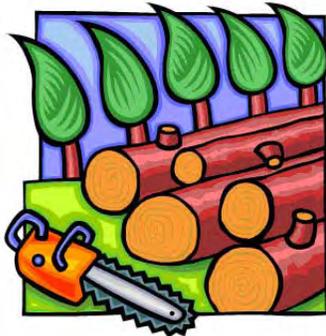
By Don Hull

We have had several incidents in the past where trees have slipped out of the chokers when the high lead operator sets them down. Then they take off back down through the strip making a very dangerous situation for the hooker or anyone else close to that strip.

Several years ago a young hooker got hit when a tree length came loose and shot down the hill under about three feet of snow. He said it looked like a snake coming down the hill and then the tree suddenly hit a stump and came right at him. He could not react quickly enough to keep from being hit.

This winter we had a similar incident. A log cutter was falling the next line when a tree length broke loose at the landing. This tree also hit a stump and shot off at an angle toward the faller. His saw was running and he was unable to hear the warning shouts. He was clipped in the legs and received some severe injuries.

Obviously, something needs to be changed when you can see that it is going to be difficult to hold the trees until a loader or skidder can get a good grip on them.



CHECK LIST BEFORE START UP NEXT SEASON

We know that it is kind of early to be thinking about next logging season but we wanted to get a little check list out that might help your company get started on the right foot. The idea is to take care of these items during lay off so when the season starts you can concentrate on logging. Getting the crew to attend the loggers first aid classes (see schedule on page 1) will help with some items on the check list, but many are about your specific logging company and have to be handled in house. We know time is short even during lay off, but maybe it is better dealing with it then instead of when there are eight empty trucks waiting in the J hole and there is only half a load of logs in the deck! Hope this will help.

- DO ALL MY EMPLOYEES HAVE CURRENT FIRST-AID CARDS?
- HAVE ALL MY EMPLOYEES HAD THE ANNUAL FEDERAL TRAINING?
- HAVE I GONE THROUGH THE COMPANY SAFETY PLAN WITH ALL EMPLOYEES?
- ARE ALL EMPLOYEES SIGNED OFF ON THEIR SPECIFIC JOB DESCRIPTIONS?
- DID I GO OVER THE EMERGENCY RESCUE PLAN WITH ENTIRE CREW?
- HAVE ALL THE NEW HIRES BEEN TRAINED?
- DID I TAKE AT LEAST ONE DAY OFF TO GO FISHIN'?

Featured Companies

CRAIG HATLEY LOGGING and DAN MILLER LOGGING

by Cliff Osborne

Craig Hatley Logging of Deary is currently working on a job for Bennett Lumber out of Princeton. Craig has a cat, rubber tire skidder and a Valmet Harvester. Most of the time Craig runs the harvester, but on this particular day I found him plowing snow with his grader.

Dan Miller, also from Deary, owns the Valmet forwarder. Dan forwards the logs to the landings from the harvester and the oversize produced by the skidder crew. Dan also loads the trucks from Baumgartner Trucking.

Safety has always been a number one priority for Hatley. His outfit has one of the lowest insurance mod rates in the state of Idaho. That speaks very well for his employees and a good reason for having Dan handling part of the work load.



Pictured on left is Phillip Corley, sawyer; on right is Jared Miller, skidder operator; below left is Dan Miller, forwarder; and below right is Craig Hatley, grader and harvester.



On the Lighter Side. . .



“No, I’m not a doctor....but I DID attend a logger’s first aid class last night!”

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Fire Training Scheduled

The Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association recently announced it will be conducting some fire safety training classes in March. Some of these will follow the first aid classes but others will not because of the LEAP update training. The fire training schedule for C-PTPA is:

City	Date	Time	Location
Orofino	Tuesday, March 7	8 A.M.	Armory
Deary	Monday, March 13	8 A.M.	Fire Hall
Pierce	Thursday, March 16	Noon	Community Center
St. Maries	Thursday, March 23	Noon	Eagles

** Other classes will be offered around the state but the Department of Lands has not yet set its schedule.*

TRAINING THE NEW GUYS

by Galen Hamilton

I was reading through the CHECK LIST article the guys came up with (see page 3) and noticed the “train new hires” part. I always enjoy listening to you loggers when you discuss training the new guy. It seems the length of time it takes to train a logger falls into one of three categories. The first is “HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT LOGGIN’ THAN I DO,” the second is “IT WILL TAKE A WHILE , BUT HE’LL GET IT” and the third, as my boss Dave Kludt likes to say when talking about me, “THE SUN AIN’T GOIN’ TO BURN THAT LONG!”

The only reason I bring this up is that we had several accidents and near misses this last season that you could say were from a “lack of training.” You can call it what ever you want, “stupid move,” “he wasn’t thinking,” “he had his head in his arm pit” or a hundred other excuses, but it does kind of come back to training.

I am not saying that training a logger is easy, in fact in some cases it may be next to impossible. Talking to you loggers after some of the accidents, I am beginning to think some guys just flat can’t handle many of the jobs you loggers do. That is not running anybody down. Thinking more about it,



Thor Raine (above left), Jesus “Jesse” Rubal (center) and Warren Hileman, timber fallers for Carlock Logging, discuss training loggers. When asked how long it takes to train a sawyer, Thor announced that he has been cutting down trees for almost 25 years and “still doesn’t know a dang thing”! (Yeah, Right) Thor said he went through the same training that many loggers have over the years. “Here is the saw, there are the trees, get going”!!!

Jesse has been falling for around 12 years. When he started he had worked on the landing for quite some time so he knew his lengths and log quality, but didn’t have a clue about falling. The fellow he worked for spent a bunch of time training him, which Jesse still appreciates.

Warren said something interesting for the rest of us to think about. Even after tipping those trees over for 18 years, just about every time he works around a different faller, he picks up something new.

Even though these three loggers have considerable experience and are good at what they do, they all agreed they are not above learning things about their profession, which is a very good attitude to have.

Of course extra training is required for all NEW LOGGERS on the job. This pup being no exception! He had one of the timber faller’s boots drug down the road about fifty feet just chewing the heck out of things.



there probably are only a handful of people on the earth that can actually do what you loggers do.

I guess what I am trying to say is that you train new people enough to get by, but maybe it would be worth it in the long run to put more time in with them.

I know that it is easy for me to say “more time.” Maybe there could be a special law just for loggers that they could go to a 35 hour day. . .

Near Miss Reports

NEAR MISS 1

A hooker was hit by a top of a tree length when a loader was pulling trees out of the chute on a line strip. The loader operator didn't see the hooker down below the road because of all the reproduction and brush. The hooker walked away from the incident with only some bruises and a short fuse.

NEAR MISS 2

A crew cab pick-up with four loggers was traveling a woods road that followed a small stream. They had been driving this particular

road for several weeks. The temperature had been in the teens and the snow-packed road was in good shape. The weather changed overnight and turned to rain making the roadway a solid sheet of clear ice. Even though the man haul had good snow tires on, it didn't seem to matter when they hit the ice. When they tried to round a corner, the man haul left the road and rolled over into a small stream. Luckily, the crew walked away from the accident with only some bruises. The man haul was totaled.

INCREASES / DECREASES BY ACCIDENT TYPE COMPARED

Much of the information we receive on types, severity and frequency of logging accidents comes from John Graham of the Associated Loggers Exchange Insurance Company. Associated Loggers insures the majority of the logging companies in Idaho so it gives us a pretty accurate account of what is happening in our state's industry.



We recently bugged John again to send us some information that may be "interesting" to the loggers so we could use it in an article for the newsletter. After reading

what John sent us, we figured we couldn't make it any better, so we just copied the whole darn thing!

NOTABLE ACCIDENT STATISTICS . . .

When comparing statistics from October 2004 through September 2005 with October 2001 through September 2002, the following results were found.

- **HOOKER ACCIDENTS** made up 22 percent of the total accidents for the more current period compared to 13 percent for the older period. This statistic stands out the most and is a fairly dramatic increase in the frequency rate for hookers.

- **SAWYER ACCIDENTS** made up 18 percent of the total accidents for the current period to 24 percent for the older period. (Good job, guys!)
- **LOG TRUCK DRIVERS** frequency rate is actually down a little bit (good job, too), but their severity rate is up. So, they are having a few less accidents but the ones they are having are more costly/serious.

The most frequent accident type is "struck by" accidents. When comparing the more recent period with the older period, "struck by" accidents made up 42 percent of the total accidents compared with 34 percent for the older period. This is a fairly significant increase.

The second most common accident type are slips and falls.

Thanks, John. Great information for the loggers to use while working hard to make their own companies safer!!



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Parting Shot

Since Cliff does have a degree in WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, as he has mentioned several thousand times, Kludt put him in charge of training the snake for the poisoning section of the new first-aid video. Sorry to say the video was never produced. Right after this picture was snapped, this Monster Python, as Cliff likes to refer to it (12-inch bull snake), chases old Cliffy across the road, over the bank and out through the woods, college degree and all!!!!

Idaho Logging Safety *News*



This newsletter is published quarterly by the Logging Safety Bureau and is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho. Comments and suggestions welcome. Call (208) 334-3950 or write:

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