

# Idaho Logging Safety

Published quarterly in the interest of logging safety by the  
Division of Building Safety, Logging Safety Bureau

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## What's Been Happening???

*By Galen Hamilton*

Hopefully by the time you open up this newsletter the roads are starting to be dusty, the mosquitoes are starting to bite, truck drivers are complaining about, well, everything, and the fallers are arguing over who got the best strip. All the sure signs that the next logging season is under way!

As you all can imagine it has been a little bit of a roller coaster spring with David being gone. I was nervous going into the spring meetings and first-aid classes without his "silent leadership" to get us through. As usual, you loggers all around the state made it very easy for us and we appreciate it. If there is an industry out there that is a made up of better people than the logging industry, I have yet to run across it. I suppose the only way we can really thank you is to work as hard as we can on any safety issues you may encounter. If anything crops up, give us a call and we will do our best to help out.

Speaking of meetings, I can report that we did get through the safety and first aid classes, and I think they went pretty dang well. As I mentioned earlier, the logger's patience was probably the most important ingredient, but having the new sound system was also a big plus. After all of those years of us yelling so loud it hurt the peoples ears in the front row but the people in the back still couldn't hear, Dan Musselman approached the Associated Logging Contractor folks he works for about purchasing a remedy for this mess. What he came up with was really neat...microphones so we didn't have to scream and speakers that were clear as a bell! I get tangled up in the wires every once in a while and knock a few things over when I am tripping and stumbling around the room but Dan said he could fix that problem too. Something about putting both my legs in casts the next time I break something. Anyway, thanks again to you loggers in the ALC.

And speaking of things that are new, we have hired a NEW GUY to the logging safety gang. Monte Biggers was selected from a great bunch of loggers that applied for the job. Monte grew up in a family and community that has strong ties with the timber industry, so we know where his heart lies.

More about Monte in the following pages. See you in the woods and LOG SAFE!!!



Thanks to the businesses that provided the goodies at our first aid classes. Those businesses were Western Pacific Timber, Les Schwab, & Western States Equipment (the Lewiston store).

## DIRECTION FOR ALL OF US TO FOLLOW

By Galen Hamilton

O.K., here is the deal. A bunch of you out there knew David quite well and I am sure realize he was the last person on earth who wanted to have a big deal made out of him. In fact, I am sure he would have been poking that big old finger at a bunch of us saying ENOUGH. Talking to his brother Darold recently, he said the same thing. But, that is where the problem lies. On one hand I know it is time to get rolling on our own, but there is no way in heck I am going to leave that knowledge and commitment behind. What to do?

With this on my mind, I sat down in a motel room in Idaho Falls with David's old brief case and a box of soda. I started through it and discovered David had kept about every paper he had run across for the last twenty years since he had started his logging safety program. (the thing weighed 40 pounds!) Most of the stuff turned out to be filler for the trash can along with some statistics of accidents and such over the years. I was just about through the entire stack, still not really knowing what I was looking for, when I grabbed what was literally the last paper in the stack. Reading through it I knew instantly I had found exactly what I needed. Something that will let us move on, but also give us direction to where we are

moving onto. It was a letter from David to "Loggers" talking about safety and the logging safety program. It was the FIRST LOGGING SAFETY NEWS LETTER!

Please read it and remember it was written 18 1/2 years ago.

Loggers,

Nearly 6 months have gone by since I started operating the Logging Safety Program. I have tried to get around to every area in Idaho where logging is going on. Needless to say, I have not been able to visit all of your jobs yet, but I'm trying. As I come on the jobs and talk to you, my position is to suggest and encourage safety measures that I feel will work for you. Obviously, my visits will be quite limited due to the number of loggers. Therefore, it is up to you, as employers, to decide what you expect and require from your employees. Don't do it for me—do it for yourself. The proof is in your accident records.

Many of you are still asking what is required on your job. The one thing that you have total control over is first aid equipment. A first aid kit, a stretcher or spine board, and a couple of blankets are



required. The lack of these could put you in a tough position liability wise as well as being quite embarrassing. These first aid items are definitely your responsibility.

If your sawyers are not wearing chaps, you are missing the boat. **THEY DO WORK.** Saw cuts on the jobs that use chaps have been nearly eliminated. When a sawyer gets cut and your \$50,000 skidder is down for the rest of the day, you have to be looking at more than just your insurance costs.

Many of you are doing an excellent job with safety equipment and safety practices; yet, are still experiencing a high number of accidents. If there is one area that many loggers overlook, it's with your hiring practices. It is up to you to do a more careful job of checking out the people you hire. Get some references and experience records from the people you hire and check them out. In doing this, you may also avoid the "jumpers" and "habitual insurance claim people" that are not going to do you a good job anyway.

Another area that I see problems with is the young, inexperienced people. Needless to say, we have to have these young people come in to the logging profession; but it takes a lot of time and patience to properly train them. I realize with the prices many of you are working with and the production that is required that this is going to be a difficult job. I was always told that if you want a man to do things your way, take a person that is willing to work and train him properly yourself. I am presently working on getting some type of training courses set up where experienced loggers can work with these young people and get some proper on-the-job training before we put them into the pressures and dangers of gypo logging. I am hopeful that something can be done by next spring or early summer.

Along with this letter, I have sent some sketches of the fatalities that have occurred in Idaho since July 1. If you would hang them in your shop or some other place where your employees can see them, I would appreciate it. Hopefully, they can be reminded that these things do happen in Idaho in our logging industry.

Again, I appreciate the time and encouragement that you have given me as I visit your jobs. I am hopeful that safety will become recognized as one of the important tools toward production. If I get carried away talking about safety equipment when I'm on your job and forget to mention attitude, then slap me on the side of the head! Attitude is still the number one safety tool.

Sincerely,

David Kludt

As true today as it was all those years ago. Sitting in that motel room with the snow and wind raging outside, the tears ran freely into the tops of several empty soda cans as I read through his letter. It had given us the direction for the logging safety program along with direction for you loggers as well.

Grabbing that piece of paper as the very last one out of that huge stack — a coincidence? If anyone thinks the Big Guy wasn't sitting in that room taking care of old Galen, **AGAIN**, they will have a hard time ever convincing me. No, he was there, just like he will be with a whole bunch of us forever, headed out to the woods!

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## TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT YOUR TRUCK

*By Monte Biggers*

Whether you have been hauling reloads all spring or you have just gotten the cobwebs knocked out in the past couple of weeks, it is always a good idea to take a close look at that log truck of yours. Most of you drivers do a good job keeping an eye on things, and doing it on a regular basis is a good habit to have. Below is your basic D.O.T. pre-trip list and is a pretty good guide to follow.

### TRUCKS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Compressor     | <input type="checkbox"/> Horn             | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Lines          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lights           | <input type="checkbox"/> Starter            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery            | Head-Stop                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Steering           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body               | Tail-Dash                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tachograph         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brakes             | Turn                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tires              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brakes, Parking    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mirrors          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tire Chains        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brakes, Service    | <input type="checkbox"/> Muffler          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clutch             | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil Pressure     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheels and Rims    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coupling Devices   | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiator         | <input type="checkbox"/> Windows            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defroster/Heater   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rear End         | <input type="checkbox"/> Windshield Wipers  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive Line         | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflectors       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engine             | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Equipment |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhaust            | Fire Extinguisher                         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Wheel        | Reflective Triangles                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frame and Assembly | Flags-Flares-Fuses                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front Axle         | Spare Bulbs                               |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Tanks         | Spare Seal Beam                           |   |

### TRAILERS

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brake Connections   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hitch             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tarpaulin       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brakes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landing Gear      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tires           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coupling Devices    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lights-All        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheels and Rims |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coupling (King) Pin | <input type="checkbox"/> Roof              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doors               | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension System |  |

Here are a few other things a person might take the time to look at. On the upper rear mount on the front leaf springs on T800's, there is a little bolt that goes through the frame. It is sometimes loose or broken and kind of hard to spot, but the D.O.T guys always find it. This is also a good area to check the frame out. The cross members on logging trucks are a good place to look for loose bolts or cracks and you can check the frame out while doing so. On log trailers it is a good idea to slide the reach out of the tunnel a ways, clean it up and look for cracks. Finding something early not only saves time and money down the road but more importantly may save someone from being injured.

# ***ACCIDENTS***

## **Accident #1**

An experienced logger was roughed up when he was struck by a drag of tree lengths being skidded away from him. Obviously he was not clear when he gave the signal to “take it away”, but that just isn’t as easy to do as it was at one time. Smaller timber skidded mostly as tree lengths not only flip around easier than a big old log, but cover a heck of a lot more area when they do “endo”. Throw that in with more and more emphasis put on production and I wonder if the hookers think they are wasting too much time getting clear of each drag.

Remind each other it does take time to get “clear”, but not nearly as much time as hauling out someone with a broken leg—  
—or worse!

## **Accident #2**

A log truck driver severely injured his shoulder when he fell off his trailer while putting in his extensions before the trailer was unloaded. This injury may end this fellows log truck driving days because it was so serious.

It is difficult to fault anyone working hard to make things seem to go smoother, but this is one of those accidents that does not need to happen. Logging is dangerous enough guys, we don’t need to think up ways to make it worse.

Time is money, but just like in the accident next to this one, 40 seconds is not worth the thousands of dollars it will take to fix this guys shoulder and possibly take away something he loves doing.





Gary Wilcox (processor operator)  
and Nate Wilcox (superintendent)

## NATE WILCOX LINES OUT THE CREW!!

After Nate came out and saw his dad Gary, Uncle Blaine and the rest of Wilcox's crew wallowing around in 7 feet of snow, he knew it was that time of the year. He told the boys to shovel the tracks and load the iron on the low-boy. Lets get back to the shop! Nate is also one to keep an eye on safety. When his dad was loading the processor he told this safety guy "we need to stand over here, clear out of the way!"

## “NEW GUY HANGS OUT WITH SOME PRETTY ROUGH COMPANY”



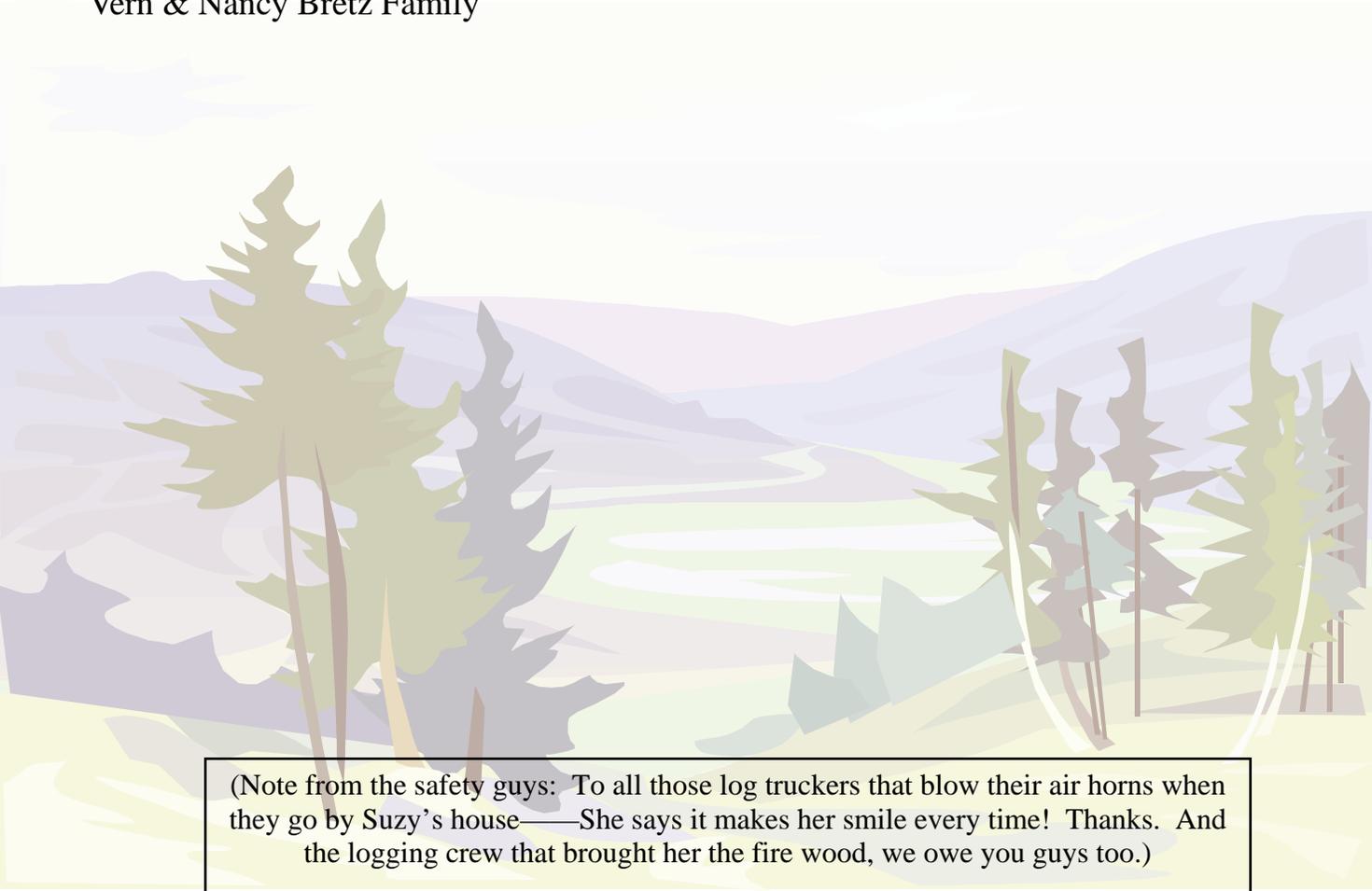
(L to R) Monte “the new guy” Biggers, Steve Henderson-Henderson Logging and Cliff at the Henderson / Darby safety meeting)

Monte Biggers is the new addition to the logging safety crew. Monte not only brings with him a vast knowledge of the industry but also a shot of enthusiasm that is good to see. Like I mentioned on the front page, Monte has been around logging his whole life and has done every job there is to do in the woods. He has most recently been working for a logging company out of Emmett where he lives with his wife Heather and family. Welcome aboard Monte!

## *Thank-You From Suzy*

On January 19th our beloved David was taken from us in a tragic traffic accident. We wish to thank all of you who so thoughtfully brought food, sent flowers and cards and gave your time and effort to make David's Celebration of Life so meaningful. We wish we could have hugged everyone and we are so touched by your being there to support us. To everyone who donated so generously to the Glenwood-Caribel Fire District in David's name, our whole community is indebted to you. The outpouring of love, support and generosity by all of our family, friends, neighbors and the entire logging community has been a great comfort during this difficult time.

With Sincere Appreciation,  
Suzy Kludt, Frances Kludt, Kristen Kludt, Nels & Leah Kludt Family, Jeff & Heidi Whipple Family, Darold & Becky Kludt Family, Bill & Donna Messenger Family and Vern & Nancy Bretz Family



(Note from the safety guys: To all those log truckers that blow their air horns when they go by Suzy's house—She says it makes her smile every time! Thanks. And the logging crew that brought her the fire wood, we owe you guys too.)



**IDAHO LOGGERS  
ARE DOING A  
GREAT JOB!  
KEEP IT UP!!**

# Advisors



# LOGGERS OF ALL SHAPES, SIZES, AGES AND OCCUPATIONS ATTEND FIRST AID CLASSES



Rob Smith and Bryson Hernandez (Bryson is the short one) attended the Pierce class. Bryson decided to sleep the first half of the class and Rob slept the second.



Above: Bill Rogers, Ron Wall, Rich Nordstrom, Butch Glander, Verton Kienke, LOOOOOONNGG time loggers from the Coeur D'Alene area wait for the Safety guys to make a mistake, which they have no problem pointing out!

Below:

Marlyn Donley-Renfro Logging, Rachel Vandenburg-Boise forester, Heather Carr-Div. of Building Safety, roll Jake Brown-Brown Bros Logging, in order to get a spine board under him. Is it just me or does it look like the saw mill person, Rachel and the state person, Heather, are enjoying beating on this poor logger? Marlyn on the other hand is thinking of a way to thank Galen for having her come up in front of the class, EVERY YEAR!



Idaho Logging Safety News  
Division of Building Safety  
1090 E. Watertower St.  
Meridian, Idaho 83642

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## *The Idaho Logging Safety News*

Is published quarterly by the Logging Safety Bureau and is prepared by the  
Division of Building Safety.

It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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