

Idaho Logging Safety News

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

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Suzy Kludt, Editor

SAFETY CLASSES BIG SUCCESS BECAUSE OF A LOT OF GREAT HELP



(l to r above) Tim Christopherson-Dabco Logging, Bill Hanson-Hanson Trucking, Jerry Renfro-Renfro Logging and Neil Gardner-Gardner Construction talking things over at the Emmett meeting. All 4 of these fellows are longtime members of the Associated Logging Contractors here in Idaho, with Tim being the current president. Without the help of the ALC these safety meetings would be impossible, so thanks to ALL those members!



Raelyn Titus showed patience teaching (l to r) Don Yearout, Roger Titus and Shawn Willey how to put a logger on a backboard at the St. Maries #1 class

Another BIG thanks needs to go out to the companies that bought all those doughnuts for you loggers. LES SCHWAB took care of many of the classes with JERRY'S NAPA handling New Meadows and WESTERN EQUIPMENT delivering to Pierce.

In fact, Schwab crew members Shelley Bircher Ross and Kenny Carver sat thru the Wallace class to make sure loggers Kelly Waalkens, Ryan Bechtel and Barney Layton didn't get too rowdy!



A Letter From a Logger:

I am writing this for two reasons. Last September I left the logging industry after 32 years for a job on the North Slope in Alaska. I didn't start logging until I was 26 (a late bloomer I guess). I would like to thank Finke Logging for these last 24 great years of employment. I couldn't of asked for better people to work for. You are like family. I will miss the industry. The other reason is I want to wish Don and Dianna the very best. I hope you get to enjoy your retirement. I am like Galen; I cannot believe the safety program has been going for over 20 years.

I have known Dave (Kludt), Cliff and Dan (Musselman) for a long time. Don, Dianna, Galen, and now Monte, I have enjoyed getting to know through the Loggers Safety Program.

I first met Dave when I first came to Idaho in 1971 playing town team basketball. Don't ever believe basketball isn't a contact sport, especially in Pierce. In 1977 my partners and I got stupid and bought a logging truck. I worked for Dave off and on for the next several years. Kludt Bros. Logging was a real experience. You haven't seen a good loader operator at work unless you have seen Dave load poles or 10,000 lb. white fir with that 210 Prentice they had. Having Dave help start the Loggers Safety Program was like hiring the crook for a cop! He had already tried all the shortcuts and knew the good and bad from experience.

Dan I knew from Pierce. In 1982 I went to work for he and his dad at Musselman Construction. They also got me onto the Clearwater Champion Tug-O-War team. Oh what an experience that was.

I met Cliff through the horse 4-H program.

I am proud to have gotten to know you all over the last 20 plus years and all that you have accomplished with safety. I believe there are a lot more of us loggers around today because of your hard work.

I feel privileged to have sat in on a few of your executive sessions held in the Kludt Hotel at Petes Fork (hunting camp). There has been a lot of deep thought go through there over the years.

Again, the best to Don and Dianna. The rest keep up the good work. I hope to see all of you in the spring.

Rob Smith, Orofino

P.S. I enjoy the newsletter very much. You do a fine job Suzy K. (editor) considering what you have to work with!!!

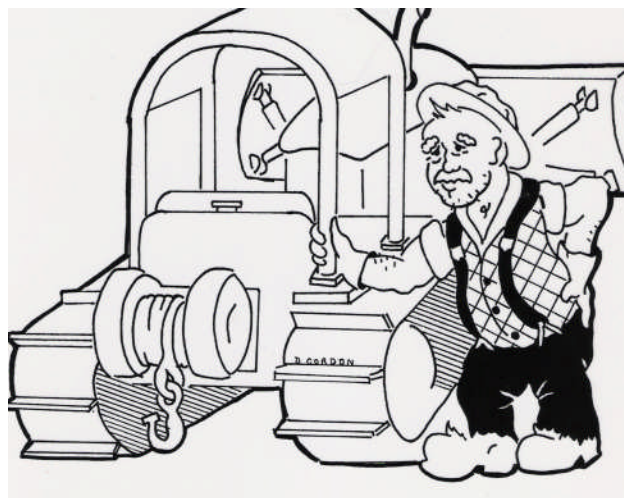
Rob moved on to Alaska but I think his heart is still logging around Headquarters somewhere. Thanks for all the compliments and being a big help to the safety program over the years.

A quick story about Rob. For those of you that don't know him Rob is a "Gentle Giant". It is very hard to get him excited, but when he does, a fellow might want to listen. Rob was overheard reminding a couple of young loggers to wear their safety glasses. They didn't seem to be getting the message so the 3rd time Rob reminded them, he "REALLY REMINDED" them. That was 6 years ago. I just saw those 2 loggers last month at the grocery store, and they still had on their safety glasses!!!!

They say some of the new equipment will work on vegetable oil, corn, wind and even water.



Well, I've been working on PEANUTS for the last 20 years!



What's Been Happening?

By Galen Hamilton

What hasn't been happening should be the question! If anyone can explain this roller coaster ride the world has been on lately, please give me a call. One of the things that has always made me proud to be associated with you old loggers is that no matter how much crap they dump on you, somehow you guys work your way out of it. When it was time to dump the crap this time however, it looks like they brought in the **BIG BELLY-DUMP!** I know you will get through it, you always do. They say the economy has hit bottom (I guess that is a good thing) so I hope by the time you are reading this newsletter you are back in the woods.

We keep hearing about some of that taxpayer money trickling down and earmarked for work to be done in the woods by private companies. At the safety meetings, several of you contractors mentioned that you were looking into it. If it comes about, it might be a little bit different type of work than your crew is used to, so take the time to train them.

Speaking of the safety meetings, I want to thank you contractors for getting your crews in. Wow, what a turnout for these trying times. We heard some great stories of loggers using their 1st Aid training out in the real world. In several cases, they saved lives. It does not get any better than that. Good Job Loggers!



A Safety Guy and 2 Good Looking Loggers! Carolyn Howe and Ron Nelson tried to teach Dan Musselman a thing or two in the Bonners Ferry class. Carolyn and her family log in the Elk City area, Ron works out of Priest River and Dan, well he works from one end of Idaho to the other.

Dan is the Associated Logger's Safety / Insurance / Furniture Mover / Whatever it takes to get the Job Done Guy. He also does one whale of a job in the safety classes, but don't tell him we said that!

SAW CHAPS READY TO GO TO WORK?

By Monte Biggers

It's time to get back in the woods. Overhaul is done, you have your MSDS sheets all indexed, safety plans have been gone through and you have checked and restocked all of your first aid kits. Lots of stuff to do before you head back out in the spring.

One thing that often gets overlooked is saw chaps. There are a few things to look for when checking them out before putting them back into action. They say that any cut or tear on the shell of the chaps, especially if it goes into the fibers underneath, will reduce the chaps effectiveness. The fibers are tightly woven together and if they have been severed or damaged, their ability to slow a saw chain down will be greatly reduced. With the way the fibers work, even if the saw cut occurs away from the damage in the chaps, it may not slow the saw chain down adequately.

Another thing that can reduce your chaps effectiveness is being oil soaked or covered in sap or pitch. This can cause the fibers to clump together and greatly hinder them from doing their job.

How the chaps fit can also reduce their effectiveness. If they fit too loose they can pull the saw into your leg. Chaps are not a "one size fits all" deal. The one argument some timber fallers have had for not wanting to wear chaps is that they are awkward and they may snag up not allowing them to move quickly. There are many sizes and styles so you can find what fits you best, which might help with that problem. Remember, chaps should cover from the upper thigh to your boot top.

So, if your chaps have tears or cuts in them, are stiff and oil soaked or are 3 sizes too big, it might be time to change them out.

(If you get on the internet, Baileys and Labonville have some good videos comparing chaps that are worth watching.)

AND WHILE I AM ON THAT SUBJECT, HOW ABOUT SOME.....

LOGGING SAFETY AND THE INTERNET

As many of you know we get a lot of our funny first aid videos off of the internet so I spent quite a bit of time on it this winter. If you look around, you can find almost anything on the web (I'm talking logging stuff here). One thing that surprised me was the number of logging safety videos. There are several logging training videos and some interesting chainsaw videos on a site called "you tube". Most of the manufacturers of safety equipment have videos and information on their websites. Some websites are independently operated and will compare similar items of different brand names for you and give you *user* reviews. Some of the sites will even list stores that sell the items and compare prices. Most of the time if you search for an item by brand name, these sites will pop up. Some of the testing results may surprise you. For instance, after watching tests on saw chaps, I figured out which ones I think I would buy. The more expensive chaps weren't the best and the ones that did the worst in the test, I wouldn't allow on the job. If your going to wear the things, they should at least work. I know a lot of you guys buy parts and even some equipment online already, I just thought I would point out the web is also a good source of information on logging safety.

Oh, and by the way, while you loggers are *surfing* the net, if you come across a funny video that you think might fit in the first aid videos, please pass them along. mbiggers@dbs.idaho.gov Thanks

CONTRACTORS HAVE ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT

When the trees start hitting the ground you logging contractors have enough things going on to keep about three people busy. You run a good, safe job but sometimes the nitpicking part of safety doesn't get quite the attention you would like. Not being up to snuff with those things has a tendency to nag at you all season long. If that sounds familiar, we thought we could give you a guideline to go by that might help get that part of your job done so you can worry about the other ninety three things.

A great place to start is with your **COMPANY SAFETY PLAN**. Take a minute to go through it with the crew and have them sign off on their specific job descriptions. This takes away any "misunderstandings" about what you require them to do while working for you. It also gives you a chance to make sure they have all the annual training required. (if you need an updated plan, just let one us know)

If you have any **NEW HIRES**, spend the necessary time with them so you are confident that they understand what their job entails and that they are capable of doing that job safely. Write down that you did this, then slip it into your safety plan or keep it on file.

Get those **MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS (MSDS)** indexed and put in the vehicle or piece of equipment that is going to be on the job everyday. Make sure **ALL** crew members know that location!

FIRST AID KITS, BACKBOARD AND BLANKETS on each job site. Make sure **ALL** the crew know where this stuff is stashed also.

EQUIPMENT ready to go. Guards in place, fire extinguishers on the machines and in the crummys, chain brakes on the saws, etc.

Enough **WARNING SIGNS** to cover both ends of the job.

Remind the crew on your policy of **CHECKING ON WORKERS** throughout the day and at quitting time.

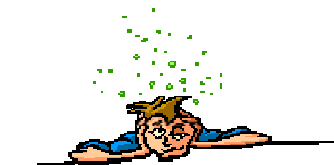
Train **SUBCONTRACT** loggers and truckers on your company policies.

Regular **SAFETY MEETINGS** with all the crew. Write down what topics you covered and have the crew sign off they attended.

Have your operators do regular **EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS** and write down what they looked at and on what day. (checking the cable on line machines is a biggy)

Again, keep those reports handy. **DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT.**

Put in a good half day getting the crew lined out on these topics and you won't have to worry about it for the rest of the logging season. I mean after all, there are so many other things for you to worry about!



HOOKING LOGS IS NOT FOR THE MEEK

By Cliff Osborne

Hooking logs has always been rated as one of the “highest risk” jobs in logging. A bunch of our timbered ground here in Idaho is too steep, rocky or steep and rocky for any type of conventional skidding, so the loggers bring in the line machines and over the bank the hookers go! With this environment to work in, slips, trips and falls are just part of the workday. Even though these fellows are usually the youngest and fittest loggers on the job, some of those slips and falls end up as injuries.

More seriously, over the years fatalities have occurred when hookers have been *struck by* an assortment of objects. These have ranged from rolling rocks, chunks of logs, snags and even the drag they are sending up the hill. The loggers know to get out of the way, but considering the terrain they are working on, that is easier said than done.

As you all know, “tree length” logging has become more popular simply because the timber being logged is smaller. All the fallers have to do is get the tree on the ground and let the processor handle the limbing and bucking when it gets to the landing. This makes things safer for the fallers and allows the logging crews to get the production that is needed to stay in business.

But what about the hookers. Keeping in mind those serious “struck by” accidents, is skidding tree lengths *scarier* than skidding log lengths? Lets do a little comparing:

*Getting out of the way is harder because the tree length is usually three times or more the length of strip sawed logs. When a tree length “sweeps” around, it covers a heck of a lot of area. But, will a short sawed log “sweep” around easier than a tree length?

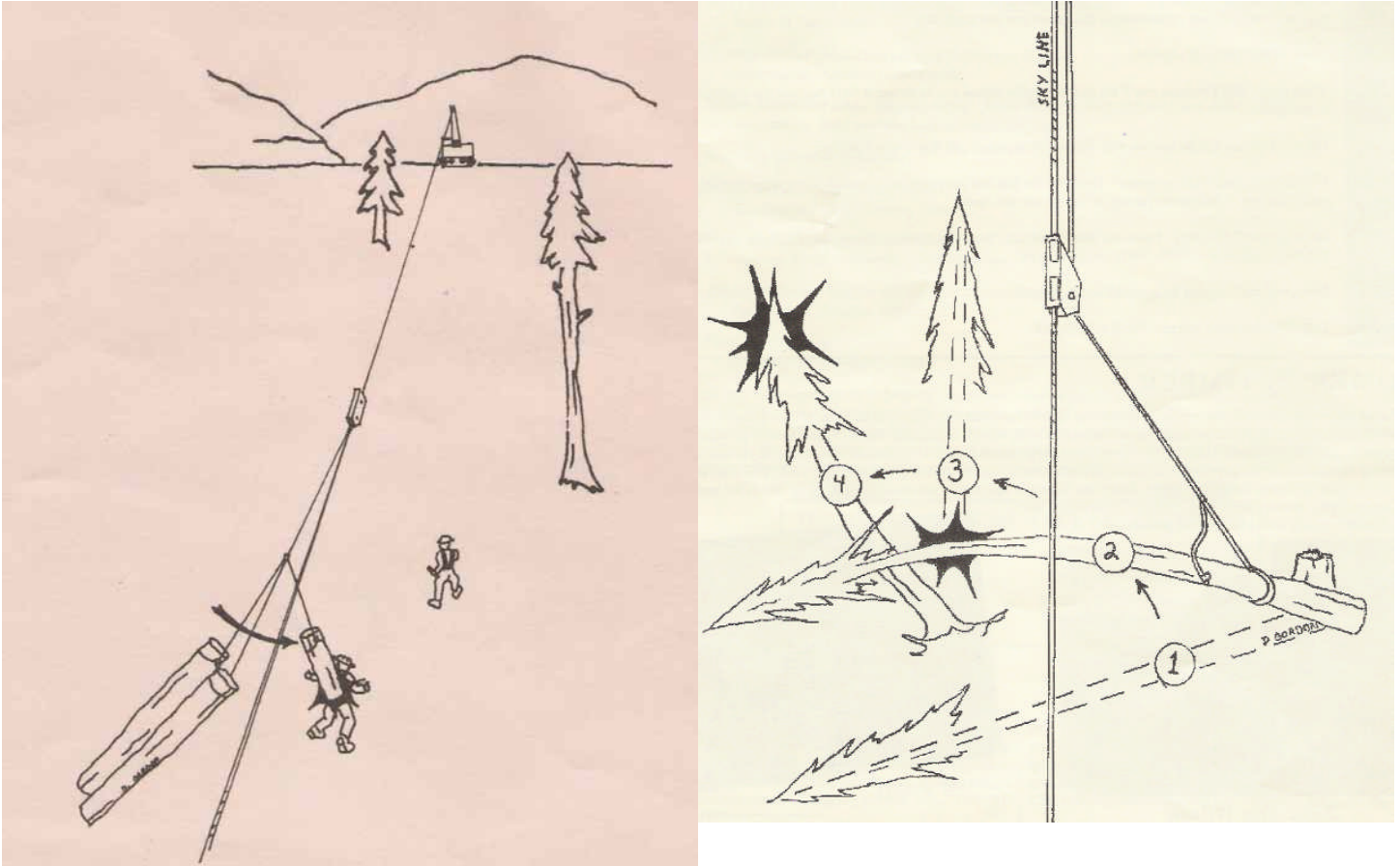
*When skidding tree lengths, it may be more difficult pulling the skyline out over that unlimbed mess, but it also limits the chance of rolling logs, bucked out chunks and the like you might have on a saw log strip.

*Tree lengths pull harder with all the limbs entangled and especially if they are under some snow, which may test the rigging more than usual, but when the drag goes up the hill it takes all the limbs with it making it safer to get to the next tree length you are hooking.

I guess when you look at it, skidding tree lengths has it plusses and minuses as far as safety goes - its not any more unsafe than skidding log lengths, maybe just a little different than many of us are used too.



Hooking Logs cont.



I hope I don't offend anyone or bring back bad memories by digging out these old "fatality drawings". I just wanted to remind everyone that things can go bad whether you are skidding log lengths or tree lengths. If you get a little over a log length away and something goes wrong, you get whacked! If you get a little over a tree length away and something goes wrong, you get whacked!

I know it is a pain and usually requires a little more digging, but setting that choker as close to the butt as possible reduces the chance of that tree length or log sweeping around.

You experienced hookers keep reminding those new guys to get far enough out of the way. You bosses keep reminding those experienced guys to do the same. As the old hooker said, "**Clear out of the way...Then take 3 more steps**"!



Monte Biggers

369-6631

LOGGING

Cliff Osborne

875-0690

Galen Hamilton

935-0401

SAFETY

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

PRST-STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 1
BOISE ID



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.

Call (208) 334-3950 or write:

Idaho Logging Safety News, Logging Safety Bureau,

1090 Water tower St.

Meridian, Idaho 83642

dbs.idaho.gov