

Idaho Logging Safety News

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THANKS TO ALL IDAHO LOGGERS FOR MAKING THIS YEARS SAFETY CLASSES A HUGE SUCCESS!

Not only did the loggers get their heads full of valuable safety information, they also got their stomachs full of some tasty vittles like these being served up by Les Schwab's Craig Reynolds in Post Falls! (We thought the rest of the Schwab guys around the state would like seeing Craig in his flowery apron!)

*Getting ready to stuff
their gut.....I mean
sample the cuisine are
North Idaho Loggers
Harvey Wise, Zae
Bereiter and Dirk Roth*

*Donuts were served in
most classes but the
Post Falls and Bon-
ners Ferry loggers
were treated to a full
course breakfast!*

*"SPOILED" comes to
mind!*



For supplying all of that grub, a big thanks needs to go out to **LES SCHWAB, WESTERN STATES EQUIPMENT (Lewiston) and WESTERN TRAILERS (Boise)**. It is greatly appreciated by us safety guys and the loggers. We also appreciate the members of the **ASSOCIATED LOGGING CONTRACTORS** for picking up the tab for all of the buildings we use around the state doing our classes. I don't know how good our attendance would be if we did the classes out in a parking lot somewhere!

Speaking of attendance, one word comes to mind for this years classes, **WOW!** With things the way they have been, I thought maybe we would be sitting in those big rooms all by ourselves. It turned out I could

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Safety Meetings cont.

not have been more wrong. We had full rooms in just about all the classes, in fact, too dang many loggers in a couple. With that many people packed in a room it would be very easy to disrupt a class but, as always, the loggers attending were very gracious and patient. I hope you all know how much that is appreciated by us. Again, thank you all very much!

MORE PICTURES FROM THIS YEARS SAFETY CLASSES



Even though I only get to visit with many of you once a year at the safety classes, you have been coming for so dang long it is like seeing old friends! A couple of loggers that fit in that category are George Davis and Jimmy Shuler Jr.

When I mentioned to Jimmy that I might have seen his eyes closed and he appeared to be taking a nap during the class he immediately responded,

“Galen, you guys said that the last sense to go was your hearing. Even though I appeared to be asleep, I heard everything that was said”!

How could I argue with that.

A few of the younger loggers in the crowd at St. Maries were D.J. Huling, Weston Gauthier, Raelyn Titus and big sister Nicole Titus.

As you can tell by their huge smiles, D.J. and Weston were having the time of their lives helping the girls explain to the class how to put someone on a backboard.

The young men grudgingly went and sat down after this and let Raelyn and Nicole teach the section on how you work on a logger if you are by yourself.



BACK TO WORK SAFETY CHECK LIST



By Cliff Osborne

When its time to return to work in the spring after the layoff, logging companies and loggers alike are anxious to get some money rolling in. Getting those logs to the sawmills is the goal, but there are some KEY items that should not be overlooked.

✓ Get your Logging Emergency Plan in order! If you don't have a GPS, give us a call. Make sure ALL employees know where this information is located and how to use the radio. Update Lat. and Long. as you move through the logging job.

✓ First Aid Kits should be checked for damage and resupplied if necessary. Remind the crew of their locations.

First Aid Kit Supply List

Suggested Contents:

1. Gauze pads (at least 4 x 4 inches).
2. Two large gauze pads (at least 8 x 10 inches).
3. Box adhesive bandages (band-aids).
4. One package gauze roller bandage at least 2 inches wide.
5. Two triangular bandages.
6. Wound cleaning agent such as sealed moistened towelettes.
7. Scissors.
8. At least one blanket.
9. Tweezers.
10. Adhesive tape.

✓ Personally Train new employees or have them trained by a qualified person. Make sure returning workers are meeting your expectation for their specific job. Document that you observed them performing their job and they meet your requirements. If there is a problem, whether it is a new employee or an experienced person, take care of it before an accident occurs. Have a *safe* and productive logging season.

**JOB SITE SPECIFIC
LOGGING EMERGENCY PLAN**
Call 1-800-632-8000
Or (208) 846-7610

For Job _____

Employer's Name _____

Call back Telephone # _____

Company Radio Frequency _____

GPS Latitude _____

GPS Longitude _____

Location where you must go to operate Phone
or Radio _____

Directions by Road System _____

LOG SAFE
TEAR OUT AND DISCARD AFTER JOB IS COMPLETED

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LOGGING AROUND TICKS

By Terry Streeter

I got a call a few weeks ago asking about TICKS. The logger reported that they were already bad. After asking around a little bit, other loggers said they were seeing ticks everywhere so I did some research.

Information from the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation says ticks carry many diseases, two being Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Fever. “Tick Paralysis” is also a possibility, which affects a person with a slow paralysis over a couple of days and can cause death if the attached tick is not found. Apparently, individuals will recover within hours once the tick is found and removed.

Diseases are less likely to occur if the tick is removed within 24 hours of attachment. For this reason daily checks for ticks and prompt removal of any attached ticks will help prevent infection.

How to remove a wood tick! DO NOT use petroleum jelly, a hot match or nail polish. Attempting to remove the tick using these methods could be dangerous by making the tick vomit, which increases the possibility of infection or disease. Use tweezers to grab the tick as close to the skin as possible and gently pull upward. Never twist the tick as you pull or yank it quickly, as you can leave the mouth parts still lingering in the bite site. Wash the area with warm water and soap and apply antiseptic.

If you are in areas where ticks are present, you can protect yourself by wearing light colored clothing so that ticks can be spotted easier and removed before becoming attached. Tight collars and wearing long sleeved shirts with tape or bands at the cuffs and bottoms of the pant legs may provide additional protection. Repellents containing “Deet” applied to clothes and exposed skin can also be used.

Ticks can make you sick and even prove to be deadly so take them seriously. We used to believe that there was a heavier infiltration of ticks after milder winters, but apparently that is not so. Ticks are simply nasty creatures!

(This was passed along to us by a very experienced logger)

“Just a little reminder to all the old hands out there. If you see a new person starting work, help them out. I know it can be a hard thing to do, but have a little patience with them and get them started out on the right track. Experience in this industry doesn’t come easy and it can be very costly to come by. I think if you will look back at what has happened over the years you’ll know what I am talking about. Getting everyone home safe every night is the first priority and what you old hands can pass along will help get it done!”

Couldn’t have said it better ourselves! Experience is knowledge, and in the logging industry, knowledge saves lives.



COMPARISON GRAPH IS KIND OF AN EYE OPENER

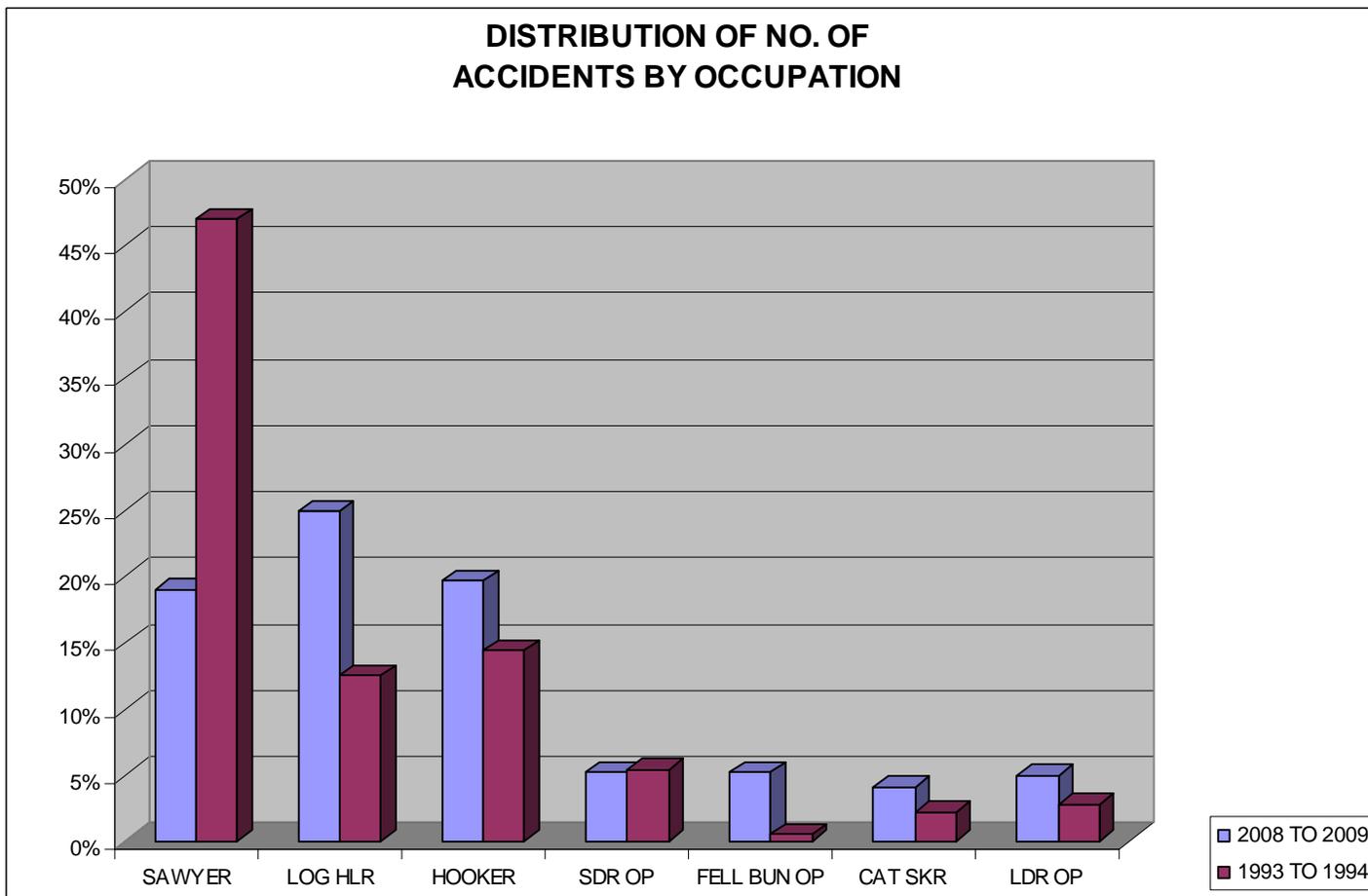
As long as we have been looking at accident percentages that have to do with who was getting hurt in the logging industry, it has always been the *timber fallers* leading the way with *hookers* and *log truck drivers* following in that order. That is why this latest comparison caught our attention. After all those years of being in 3rd place those log truck drivers have worked (or should I say tripped) their way to the top of the accident list!

This graph compares the 1993-94 logging season to the 2008-09 season. Yes, there has been changes in the industry, but looking at percentages and ratios, it clearly shows truck driver accidents have taken a jump.

One *stat* really stuck out. The **average age** of log truck drivers in the newer period is **52**, compared to **43** in the older time period. After looking at that information it makes sense that slips and falls, especially getting in and out of the truck, lead the way in “types of accidents”. ***It hurts worse hitting the ground at 52 than it did at 43, a bunch of us can attest to that!!!!***

Lets face it, you log truck drivers are exposed to that ‘chance of an accident’ more so than most. Whether it is out in the woods getting a load (related article on next page) or getting up and down the highway. You truckers do a heck of a job, but the rise in accident rates needs to be a wake up call for us all.

Since our newsletter isn't in color, the first “bar” over each occupation is the 2008-09 year and the second one is the 1993-04 year



WRAPPING UP AND OTHER FUN THINGS TRUCK DRIVERS GET TO DO

By Monte Biggers

As you read on the previous page, log haulers are now leading in the accident lottery. As was mentioned, you drivers are exposed to that “accident” that is just waiting to happen more so than most. One of these opportunities is when you are wrapping up your load. Since there are quite a few new drivers out there and we haven’t talked about it for awhile, I would like to mention a few things to think about while securing your logs.

Here in Idaho we have two ways of getting wrappers around the load, either the driver throws them over or the loader lifts them over for you. Each method has their plusses and minuses as far as safety goes so it comes down to whatever works best for you.

If you have your wrappers pulled over, be darn certain the loader operator knows where you are at and can see you. Just because you have done it the same way for the last three years, don’t take anything for granted. After hanging the wrappers on the grapple, get out of the way! Over the years we have logs “bumped” while lifting the wrappers over, and down they come. Also, when you are walking between the loader and the back of a load to grab the wrappers remember, you are in a pinch point.

For those of you that throw your wrappers, before leaving the loader get at least one wrapper on the load. Yes, in some cases where you load is not a safe place to throw a wrapper, but most of the time it is. Then, ‘before you leave sight of the landing’ (first good wide spot) get the other wrappers on. Six miles down the road but still in radio range doesn’t count as ‘still in sight of the landing’, even if you can look across the canyon and see it!

If you are hauling logs longer than 26’, that load requires 3 wrappers, one within 6’ of each bunk. This is required even if the mill your hauling into only requires 2 to get unloaded. More and more sawmills are not wanting short logs to be doubled. If you have an exposed short log make sure you get 2 wrappers over it and near to each end. If you do have doubled “shorties” and both are exposed, you will need to put 2 wrappers over each.

Short loggers or pup trailers can be secured with 2 wrappers placed 6’ apart. However, if they have exposed doubled shorties they also require 2 wrappers over each shorty. Tighten wrappers as needed and remember to check them before heading out onto a public road.

Again, just to remind you, while you are out of your truck in the woods, put on your hard hat. You wear it in the mill yard where there is a limited chance of getting whacked so maybe wearing it out in the woods where trees are falling, cables are whizzing and logs are flying isn’t such a bad idea.

Why you are being loaded stay in front of the bang board. If you have to pull a bunk pin or anything else that involves going back towards the load, signal the loader operator and make sure that he knows what you are up to. You truckers have a tough job so your effort is appreciated!



JILL POKES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES



A friend of mine sent these pictures of a gate schiscabobbing a pickup, and I thought it was worth passing along. I am guessing that the majority of you lumber jacks have been whacked a time or two by a jill poke popping into the cab of a skidder, log truck or crummy. Most not to the extent shown here in these pictures, but still enough to get one's attention.

Over the years we have all told or heard

stories of this type. I remember my old boss telling about sending a friend of his out with a truck load of poles. Just a few corners away from the landing the poles nudged a downfall on the bank, knocking it loose, allowing it to slide down into the truck pinning the fellow to the back of the cab. They remained friends, but the fellow never hauled another load of poles!

Along that same line, another logger told the story of a brand new truck driver coming around a shaded corner where they had been skidding. A sapling had been pushed over at the exact angle to fit perfectly into his truck cab, pinning him against the back of the cab also. "It wasn't his fault, and he was a real nice fellow, but when he got to the shop he got in his pickup and left. I never saw him again!"

Perhaps the most dramatic story I have ever heard happened here in Idaho a year or so ago. A logger's daughter and her husband were just out cruising through the woods when a top of a downed tree found its way into the vehicle they were in. The top went clear through her neck! She thankfully recovered fully, but oh so close.

We of course have had several jill poke accidents over the years in logging that did not turn out so good. It is a good idea to take the time and saw off those potential dangers, whether they are along the skid trail or work road. Keep up the good work and LOG SAFE!

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