

Idaho Logging Safety News

Volume 23 Number 3

September 2012



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

NEW LOGGING SAFETY ADVISOR WORKING WITH THE POTLATCH, DEARY, ST. MARIES AREA LUMBERJACKS

By Galen Hamilton



MARGO WELCH, DAVE BRADY, LEVI BRUCE and BOB BRITTON. Working as a logger and forester has allowed Margo to meet many folks throughout the timber industry, like the group above. Dave is a long time forest service fellow that works on timber sales and logging roads. Levi owns L & S Construction which builds logging roads and Bob works for Levi.

When we got out of the pickup the first thing I heard from these guys (and every logging job we stopped at) was, "Margo, what the heck are you doing in a logging safety rig"!

A **BIG WELCOME** to the NEW LOGGING SAFETY GAL!!!! (Her words, not mine)

In this issue: Narrow banding radios, sawing techniques, speaking up when it comes to safety and much more!

I am excited to announce the hiring of **MARGO WELCH** to join the Idaho Logging Safety Program. Margo brings a lot of experience from each corner of the logging industry along with a bunch of common sense, and I see that as a big help to us all.

Margo admits to having the same *problem* that most of you loggers have, she just loves the woods!

That *problem* started years ago as she worked making post and poles along with firewood. One thing led to another and the next thing she knew she owned a logging outfit!

Along the way she also graduated with a forestry degree from the U of I which led her to the job as the senior forester for the Dept. of Lands out of Deary for the last ten years or so.

With that background, the common sense I mentioned earlier and a true love of the logging industry, I can't help thinking Margo is going to be a great addition to the logging safety program!



Keeping the first aid kits stocked up with the required contents, making sure the backboards are still where they should be and reminding the crews where EVERY safety item is located is almost a full time job anymore.

HANSEN LOGGING WORKS HARD KEEPING SAFETY ITEMS IN ORDER

By Galen Hamilton

As I have suggested in the past, I think it would be a good idea to get a law passed making the *Logging Contractors* day 33 hours long instead of just 24, that way you have a fighting chance of getting everything done you are supposed to!

Even though he is still on that short 24 hour schedule, **Richard Hansen** somehow manages to keep the required safety gear lined out on all the different job sites Hansen's have going.

Richard says that having the crew help out by letting him know when something is used out of a first aid kit or if the labels are worn off a jug is a big help.

When I mentioned the 33 hour day to Richard he thought that was a good idea because it would give him two extra hours to kick the safety guys ####**!

NARROW BANDING AND RE-TONING YOUR RADIOS

By Mont Biggers

I know that I have written about this before but the deadline for narrow banding your radios is NOW! Another item of importance is that State Comm. is making the switch to narrow band in September and you must have your radios "toned" if you want to be able to communicate with them. Contact your service provider or radio shop for details and service. We don't want to lose this important safety tool.

I have done some research into narrow banding and have come up with some information I thought I would share. First off, a lot of the older analog radios are capable of making the switch to narrow band. There has been some confusion about this but since 1997 all equipment that is type certified, broadcasting in the 150-174 MHz VHF and 421-512 MHz UHF range, were required to be capable of narrow banding. You can ask your service provider or go to your equipment manufacturer's sight to check the devices compatibility.

If by chance you own your own system and your repeater is not narrow band capable there are a few options that exist. The cost of repeaters has come down quite a bit due to advances in technology and market place competition. You may also be able to split cost with another outfit or outfits since many of the new repeaters can handle more frequencies at one time. Many of them also can handle the older wide band radios and newer narrow band radios at the same time so you can use your older stuff right up until the January 1st. deadline. Any way you look at it, if we want to keep these radios the time for making these changes is coming up fast.

KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR EVERYTHING!

By Margo Welch

Let's talk about Tailholds, Guys and Intermediate Supports and how they can affect the safety of all you Loggers out there....

Even on the best laid-out strips, there is always the danger that a tailhold anchor or a 'jack' tree in an intermediate support strip, can come uncorked and pull out by the roots, or in some way fail under the extreme pressure of cable yarding. This can put anyone who is over the bank working at risk, and threaten to hit the hookers down in the brush, not to mention the Line Machine itself.

We know that if a guy tree or tail hold tree will reach the landing or back into the strip they need to be fell or tied back. But even if you are working a good tree length away from guy, jack or tailhold trees, the possibility of the domino effect... where trees topple into other trees... means that a falling tree can reach out and touch you from several tree lengths away. It is important to get in the clear by establishing enough distance between YOU and any standing timber that could reach where you are working. And it is vital to keep your situational awareness well tuned into what is happening around you at all times. Before signaling the line machine operator to pull in the turn, make certain **everyone** in the brush is far enough away from the drag to have time to react if things go sour. By everyone, I mean rusty ol' Foresters... Company Reps...you name it.

Many Loggers I have talked to tell me that falling objects in a skidding corridor like trees and rocks which are on a collision course with an unsuspecting lumberjack, are often silent and do not make any noise to warn a person who is in the path of danger. So, be sure to check the stability of all your anchors, tailholds and jacks at least daily to make sure they are still holding fast. And be sure your layout allows for plenty of deflection to get those logs lifted, avoiding hang-ups which could up-end the drag, or cause the rigging to fail completely.

Remember..... Look up and around at your surroundings throughout the day, and stay in the clear!



Margo Welch 877-1376

Terry Streeter 446-4149

IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY CREW

Mont Biggers 369-6631

Galen Hamilton 935-0401

ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS ON NOTCHING AND SAWING TECHNIQUES

By Terry Streeter

I have had a lot of questions about sawing this season. The main two have been, “What are the new rules on falling” and “What undercuts and back cuts are legal”?

The simple answer is, there are no *new* rules when it comes to falling trees. The rules have been the same for quite a few years now. Five basic falling rules are:

1. Notch in direction of fall.
2. No shallow notches (1/3 depth of diameter of tree)
3. No dutch cuts (the top and bottom of undercut must meet)
4. Back Cut should be 1 to 2 inches above the notch.
5. Maintain hinge wood (leave from 1/2 to 2 inches of holding wood).

Since there is so much mechanical falling these days I think we can all agree it is hard to find an *experienced* faller when you need one. When only part of your sale is line ground or there is timber too big for the buncher or you have an area a little too damp to get a machine in on, you need a hand faller. In these situations we sometimes get someone out there without quite the experience we would like.

If you are in the situation I just described, I believe by following those 5 rules (*and really work at it*) you can accomplish 3 things.

First, you are going to get the trees laid where you want them.

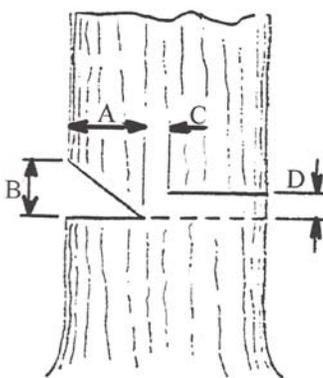
Second, you are going to reduce the chance of an injury accident greatly.

And Third, you are going to reduce the chance of your employer getting some hefty citations for bad stumps if they were inspected!

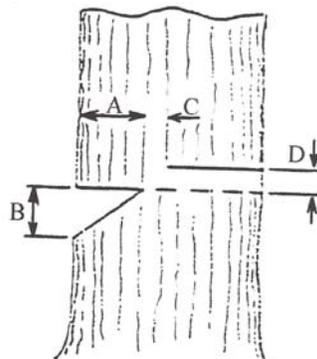
Another question I have been asked is on “Domino Falling”. **NO DOMINO FALLING, it is NOT ACCEPTED!**

DIFFERENT UNCERCUTS TO CHOOSE FROM

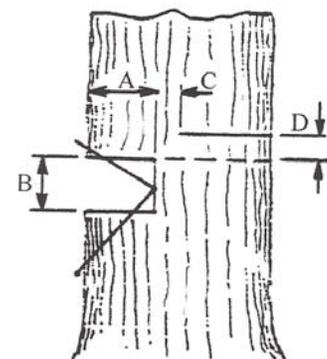
CONVENTIONAL



HOMBOLT



OPEN FACE



On heavy leaner's a “BORE CUT” is a great tool to use, but I suggest having an experienced sawyer show you how it is done properly!

HERE IS A GREAT STORY TO HELP US REMEMBER TO MAKE SURE THE SCENE IS SAFE BEFORE HELPING

By Mont Biggers

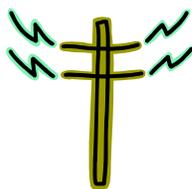
I read a newspaper article about a couple of Good Samaritans that had been killed while trying to come to the aid of a crash victim. The article described how a SUV had lost control trying to make a corner and had run over a fire hydrant and smashed into a power pole. This resulted in live wires in the flood of water created by the broken hydrant. The first responder that attempted to reach the crash victim was electrocuted when he came into contact with the electrified water. Another responder that tried to aid the first, was also electrocuted. Besides the two responders that were electrocuted six others were shocked. All of them survived, but five had to be hospitalized. The driver of the wrecked SUV was pinned in the wreckage and could not free himself. Fire fighters and rescue personnel freed him after they had shut down the water and turned off the power supply. The driver of the SUV is expected to live.

I don't know if we stress this enough during our first aid classes but let's make sure the SCENE IS SAFE before coming to an accident victim's aid. You should always look around and try to identify hazards before approaching someone that needs aid. I know this would be hard, especially for loggers that just want to get in there and get things done. It is a must that you make sure the SCENE IS SAFE not only for your own safety, but your not much help if you get yourself badly injured in the process.

This accident also brought to mind a couple of other things we talk about in the first aid classes. We usually stress that only the power company can tell you if the power is off or not and how most rural power lines that are on a breaker system can re-energize without warning. This all still holds true, however, this incident was not rural and it involved power lines running in a very large city. For whatever reason no breakers tripped nor did any other safeguards kick in while the power lines were down.

Even if you know, or think you know, how a power transmission system is designed, you have no way to tell if the system's safeguards are working. You have to let the power company do their job!

And a last note; the one person in the incident that never was shocked was the driver that remained pinned in the SUV until the power was shut off and rescuers could safely get to him!



KEEPING IT SAFE ON THE LOADING END OF THE LOGGING OPERATION!

Watching the trucks stream out from under **LEO LYTLE'S** boom is a testament of a bunch of loggers that are paying attention and keeping on their toes.

Leo runs loader for **Steve Henderson Logging** and has good, experienced truckers like **GREG KELSO** who is pictured here.

When you get out of the truck you put on your hard hat. If you have to go back to wiggle your scale plug or pull the bunk pin, you make sure Leo sees you first.

Putting out as many loads as they do a day couldn't be done without them all doing a good job, and doing it **SAFELY**.



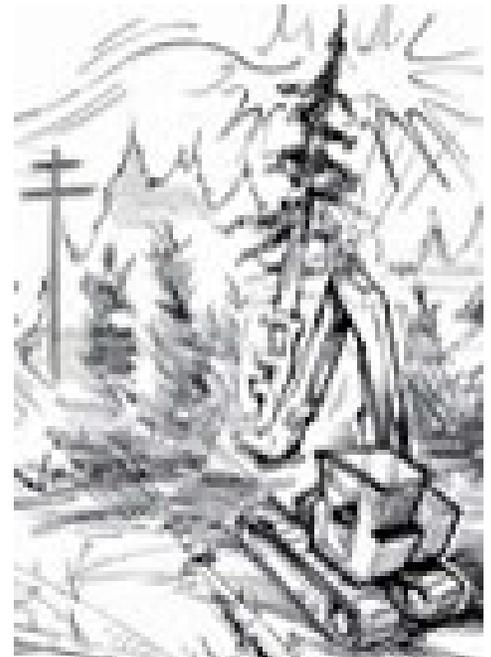
Leo Lytle on the left, and Greg Kelso stand still for a whole 2 seconds so I can get their picture. Greg said that was as long as he had ever seen Leo out of the loader in the last 10 years!

WHERE IS THAT FIRE EXTINGUISHER, I NEED IT NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Margo Welch

This has been a season for fires all around the state. Even with the weather cooling down, the chance of having a fire on a machine is there. I have seen a few bunchers and processors after a fire and it is not pretty...fire can turn your main production machine into a pool of molten metal all over the ground! Hitting a rock with a hot saw blade, or experiencing an electrical fire are some of the ways to not only melt down the equipment, but get a fire on your job.

Each month, check your fire extinguisher to make sure the gauge is "in the green", and while you're at it, turn it upside down and tap the bottom to insure the fire-stopping powder inside the extinguisher is well mixed and not sitting at the bottom of the container. Always know the exact location of all the fire extinguishers on the job so precious seconds can be saved by a quick response should fire break out on your strip.



Well, enjoy the nice weather, and I will see you in the woods!

IF IT AIN'T SAFE, LET SOMEONE KNOW!

By Mont Biggers

I always figured that the last person that *wouldn't* speak up about something would be a logger. All you usually have to do is say "how's it goin'" and you get quite an earful. Sometimes you learn how to solve all of the world's problems and get educated way beyond anything they teach you in school all inside of five minutes!

There is one matter that it seems like for some loggers it's hard to bring up though, and that is **SAFETY**. I would just like to point out that it is OK to bring up your safety concerns to the boss or the rest of the crew. Safety meetings are a good time to point out your ideas or observations that could make things safer. Bosses are a necessary evil that we must put up with, but they don't always know everything that's going on (despite what they may tell you.) Help them out a bit and speak up.

If you are an equipment operator or truck driver you need to speak up if something is wrong with your machine or truck. Again, despite what they tell you, bosses or mechanics can't read minds and writing concerns down for them may help. Safety is kind of a group effort. The more people that get involved and communicate their ideas the better off we will all be.

Side note to all of the truck drivers where I last worked. The little marker lights that you stuffed into the bumper still do not, in my opinion, count as a safety concern if they are not working!



Processor and Loader Operators, Bill Paterek and Dick Shook teach Margo how to pose for the camera safely!



On a visit to a **DUANE BROWN LOGGING** job site, Margo met up with **Bill Paterek** and **Dick Shook**.

Margo, Bill and Dick spent some time going over the location of safety equipment, emergency information in case of an accident and a few other safety issues. As usual, **DUANE BROWN LOGGING** was up to snuff with all their required safety items.

As mentioned in previous articles, having experienced people like Bill and Dick that are willing to work with the contractor getting the safety stuff lined out is the key!

Idaho Logging Safety News
363 Shenandoah Dr.
Kamiah, Idaho
83536

PRST-STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 32
OROFINO ID



The Idaho Logging Safety News

Is published quarterly by the Logging Safety Bureau

It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Call (208) 935-0401 or reach us online:

Idaho Logging Safety News, Logging Safety Bureau,
dbs.idaho.gov

Log Safe