

Idaho Logging Safety News

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
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LOGGING SAFETY PROGRAM SAYS "SO LONG" TO ONE AND "WELCOME ABOARD" TO TWO!

The logging safety program is part of the State of Idaho's Division of Building Safety which has gone through a few changes lately. The Division's long time administrator Kelly Pearce looked over his resume recently and noticed about the only title he has not had tied to his name in his long career was "retiree", so he thought he would try that out for awhile. Kelly has always been a proponent of the logging safety program and highly respected by us four safety guys, so he will be missed.

Following that with some good news, the Division's new administrator is Chris Jensen who has a work ethic and drive to do the job right, which you loggers would appreciate. Chris also has a long list of accomplishments on his resume, but were not going to let him add "retiree" anytime soon!

And with still some more good news, Larry Jeffres, DBS's Region 1 Manager, has taken on being the Oversight Manager of the logging safety program. Larry lives in north Idaho and is not only surrounded by loggers that are life long friends, but has family in the industry, so he knows the safety issues you have to deal with.

With changes in the way we do our job inspections, Larry has taken the brunt of the workload on his shoulders which is appreciated by us advisors. I have a feeling he will be jumping in one of our pickups every now and then, so you will be seeing him out in the woods.



LARRY JEFFRES, KELLY PEARCE and CHRIS JENSEN are three guys you wouldn't mind having on your logging crew.

In this issue of the Idaho Logging Safety News:

Dealing with SDS Sheet requirements, one more chance to get Fire Training, Changes in the Logging Minimum Standards, Getting your First-Aid Tools and Emergency Rescue Plan ready to go, trying to get your shop up to snuff and "WATCH OUT FOR THE CHAIN SHOT PILGRIM"!

After your through reading this one, pass it along to a logger you run into.

SDS IS NOT A FOUR LETTER WORD

By Stan Leach

Companies are required to have an SDS sheet for every chemical product that they have on their jobsite or in their shop. This includes not just the oil products but all chemical products. WD-40, starting fluid, never-seize, spray paint, and brake fluid for example. As you can imagine this results in a fairly large stack of SDS sheets. Getting all the right sheets and getting them organized and assembled in a way that they won't get quickly destroyed in a logging environment initially seemed like an overwhelming task to company owners Rick and Richard Hansen. They decided to ask their office manager Karie Austin for help.

No stranger to handling difficult tasks, Karie rounded up all the information and supplies, and put together twenty-two separate SDS books. She made books for all the crew vehicles and then larger books for the shop and service trucks. Federal rules require that each jobsite have SDS sheets for all products on that site at all times. With crewmembers constantly moving between jobs, especially the loader and processor operators, Hansens felt it was best to have an SDS book in every vehicle to insure compliance with the rule.

Karie put the books together with easy to use tabs so that employees could quickly find any product that they had questions about. The sheets and tabs were installed inside some very heavy duty binders and these were protected inside some massive zip lock bags. Having been around logging for a while Karie knew she would have to over engineer this project to get the books to survive the rigors of daily trips to the woods. Seeing the finished project you can tell that this is another job well done.

It takes a lot of effort from people behind the scenes to keep a logging company in compliance with all the rules that apply to them. People that take on tough jobs with a smile and a can do attitude, people like Karie Austin. Thanks to her efforts, at least for Hansen Logging, SDS is not a four letter word.



KARIE AUSTIN of ***HANSEN LOGGING*** out of Harvard has taken the sting out of getting this large and highly productive company into full compliance with the new SDS rules.



ONE MORE CHANCE FOR FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING

Len Young, Chief Fire Warden for the Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protection Agency, announced he will be hosting training (the last one of the season by the CT) for COE employees, loggers, CT employees and other fire fighters in the area.

The RT 130 Fire Refresher and WCT (pack test) will be held on June 19th. Start time and location for WCT is 0700 hours at the Orofino High School Track and Field. For loggers/equipment operators who want to sign up for IDL fire contracts, the test is required. The RT-130 (WFSTAR) will start at 0900 hours located at the C-PTPA Shop.

You can sign up or ask questions by contacting the C-PTPA office at 208-476-5612. Please let other loggers that might be interested in this training know about it.

CHANGES COMING TO THE IDAHO MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS AND PRACTICES FOR LOGGING

Several changes and updates were presented to the legislature and approved in the last session. These changes will be “active” as of July 1st, 2017. I thought I would list a few of these so you will know what we are talking about when we meet out on your job site.

Cutters not in sight of another employee shall have radio communication with crew members on that job site. The obvious change here is that the person your calling into is on that job.

When your climbing a tree to rig it, there are a few new rules such as; *You need a rescue plan which includes a second set of climbing gear and a person with climbing experience shall be readily available.*

Warning signs have previously been required but now they need to be a little more “explicit” such as *TRUCKS AHEAD, TRUCKS ENTERING, TREE FELLING, CABLES OVERHEAD, etc. whenever applicable.*

Here is the rule about having proof of workman’s comp on the job site: *Every employer shall post and maintain in a conspicuous place or places in and about his place or places of business a written notice stating the fact that he has complied with the worker’s compensation law as to securing the payment of compensation to his employees and their dependents in accordance with the provisions of Idaho law. Such notice shall contain the name and address of the surety, as applicable, with which the employer has secured payment of compensation. Such notice shall also be readily available on the site where logging operations are occurring, and available for inspection by Division officials upon request.* In other words, each company needs to have documentation showing they have a current workers comp policy at the job site.

A couple of new standards concerning the trucking side of logging are: *Bunk logs not less than 12” beyond bunk, with the exception of non-oscillating bunks.* Another, which is found in the DOT laws, was added to the minimum standards. *Documented reach inspections shall be performed annually.*

If a company has a serious accident *The employer is responsible for reporting all in-patient hospitalization, amputation or the loss of an eye for any employee to OSHA and the Division of Building Safety Logging Safety Program within 24 hours.*

There are also several updates in the Rigging Lines, Blocks and Shackles section such as *the use of quick nubbins (wedge buttons) as guylines and skyline end fittings is prohibited unless attaching guylines to guy drum.*

We will be getting the new standard books printed up in the near future so we can pass them out to you loggers. As I mentioned earlier, these new rules do not kick in until July 1st but we will do our best to remind you of what is coming.



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CONTRACTOR INVESTS TIME AND MONEY

Roger Titus runs Titus Logging out of St. Maries and it is an incredibly organized and efficient operation. Roger freely admits that he has high standards and expectations of his crews but he is quick to invest his time and money to insure those expectations are met. One of the things he does is have an annual safety meeting for his company that includes all of his employees, plus all of his subcontractors and their employees. The attendees can get all their OSHA required training along with the industry training all in one day at one location. Roger helps insure attendance by providing breakfast, passing out some new safety gear, and having some very cool raffle prizes.

In speaking to the employees and subs they all expressed an appreciation of the lengths that Roger goes to in make this a fun event. Organized, efficient, with a little bit of fun, sounds like a great place to work. Thanks to Roger for letting the Idaho Logging Safety crew be a part of the safety training event.



Part of Goicoechea Logging, which subs with Titus Logging,. Tim Dishman, Damian Dittman, Ray Baird, Clint Dockery, Tim Dittman, Shane Goicoechea and Raelyn Titus (Roger's daughter)

After looking at her pants Raelyn did mention she probably should start wearing her chaps more often but she did point out she wore her hard hat when straightening out the Goicoechea boys!

FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

By Monte Biggers



It is important to make sure you have enough first aid kits and that all of them are stocked with the required items. As we discussed in the spring classes, you need one kit per every three employees. You need one in each vehicle used by the crew getting to and from the woods and are needed at each landing. Don't forget to have one in the area where the fallers are working.

This year at the classes we introduced several new items and techniques. I would just like to remind everyone if you did add things such as tourniquets, blood clotting agents, thoracic seals, etc. to your first aid equipment, to take a few minutes to go over how they are used. Even the required equipment such as backboards and splints should be given a look at before you need to use them.

In the event of an accident stress can cause the simplest things to seem complicated. Being aware of how some of these devices work beforehand can aid you greatly if you need to use them.

EMERGENCY RESCUE

By Monte Biggers

It is very important to be prepared for an accident before it happens. Beyond being prepared to administer first aid, having your site specific emergency plan filled out ahead of time is of the utmost importance. Whether the employer fills out the plan or assigns someone the duty, your emergency plan should be filled out before the job starts.



The location of the plan and of helicopter landing zones should be made known to everyone on the jobsite. At your pre-work or regularly scheduled safety meeting is a good time to discuss the emergency plan. Almost all phones are GPS capable nowadays and it's fairly easy to get the coordinates off of them. On most phones, if they don't have a built in GPS, you can download one for free. Whether you use our Logging Emergency Plan (red book) or one of your own, we need to get them filled out.

Maybe by appointing the duty to a person instead of depending on someone to remember to fill out the plan we can get this done. If it becomes a person's job to fill out the plan as they move into a new area, it will become a habit. It is required that you have an emergency plan to aid your employees in the event of an accident. Loggers often work in remote areas and having these plans filled out ahead of time is how we can insure that in the event of an accident we are doing everything we can to get the injured person medical help.

It's not that hard or even time consuming to fill out an emergency plan. It just needs to be treated as part of the job for someone whether it is the employee or employer.

Test your EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION (radio or phone) by calling State Comm for a radio check every time you move to a new job. Give them your Lat and Long just to confirm you have the correct numbers written down.

THANKS TO YOU LOGGERS THE 2017 SAFETY CLASSES WERE A SUCCESS!

There is no way we could cover all the topics we do each year (in a timely fashion) if it wasn't for the cooperation from you loggers. It always amazes me that we have 100 plus loggers crammed into a room listening to information that is sometimes not all that exciting, and yet they are polite and attentive. *(Over the years I have done classes for non-loggers that are a pain in thelets just say I appreciate you loggers)*

So again, thanks to you 2,000 plus loggers that attended the safety classes and we will see you next year. LOG SAFE!



Standing room only in Orofino. It was suggested next year we do it outside.... Especially if the Steelhead are running!

WORKING IN YOUR SHOP...ON YOUR SHOP

In the spring safety classes we had several conversations during break time with loggers concerned with getting their shops up to compliance. We thought we would pass along this “check list” which we think will get you a long way toward that goal.

- 1. The breaker box or motor control switch must be in the center of the 3X3 cleared area, all the breakers must be labeled, no open breaker slots*
 - 2. Any electrical wiring below the eight foot mark must be in conduit, there is no grandfather clause for older shops*
 - 3. PVC pipe cannot be used for compressed air systems even if it is rated for that much pressure*
 - 4. All oxy/acetylene torches must have anti-flashback protection valves either built into the torch or inline near the tank*
 - 5. Any lights under eight feet must have shatterproof bulbs or be guarded*
 - 6. Exit signs must be luminescent*
 - 7. Welders with external lead connections must have covers over those connections*
 - 8. Forklifts must have lift capacity rating on them, tires must be in good shape, horn must work, no torch cut holes in the forks, bottom of fork can only be 10% less in thickness than back of fork, propane tanks must be positioned on the locating pin to direct possible blast away from operator*
 - 9. Parts cleaners must have a fusible link to hold lid open when in use*
 - 9. Fire ext. has to be kept in close proximity to bulk oil storage*
 - 11. Hydraulic presses must have a screen on a least one side*
 - 12. Must control vegetation within six feet of the outside wall of the shop*
 - 13. If you paint machines and use respirators you must have documented training on the use and storage of those respirators, they must be kept in airtight containers*
 - 14. Ladders and step stools must have a rating high enough to support the people using them, bent or damaged ones must be replaced*
 - 15. Overhead storage areas must have a visible load rating on them*
 - 16. Anchor lock brake cans must be placed inside protective cage for disassembly*
 - 17. Any gas in shop must be in safety cans*
 - 18. You cannot have floor clutter (stuff- parts, hoses, etc.) in front of parts racks*
 - 19. Welding leads, the first ten feet back from the stinger must be undamaged after ten feet it can be repaired if you use the right material*
 - 20. You must have towels located near any sinks*
 - 21. You cannot carry an exposed torch with the gauges on unless you have DOT collars on the tanks, inside closed service box ok*
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LOGGER REMINDS US THE DANGER OF CHAIN SHOT !

An Idaho logger sent this picture the other day of a chain link that had in-bedded itself into a log after a chain had broke on his processor. He was calling attention to a safety concern that I think we sometimes take for granted.

CHAIN SHOT occurs when a chain breaks, then as one end whips around at an incredible speed, a chunk flies off. This “chunk” can be a couple of drivers or just one link, like in the picture. Chain manufacturers report after inspecting broken chains, about 1 in 50 have parts gone.

Equipment manufacturers and loggers have passed along different steps we can use to minimize this problem.



—Be sure that operators are properly trained in the maintenance and inspection procedures for the processor head they are using.

—Make use of ALL SHOT GUARD/CHAIN CATCHER features offered by the manufacturer.

—Only use bar oil/chain lube that is rated for the application.

—Don't alter factory pressure settings (especially regarding chain speed and bar stroke).

—Keep chains sharp. Be sure that proper sharpening techniques are being used and specs being met.

—Don't repair chain that has broken twice...REPLACE IT.

—Transport chains in either a dry or oil environment (weeks in the back of the pickup not a good idea.)

—Never cut in DIRECT LINE with yourself, other machines, ground personal or safety guys in your area (250' radius). As one operator said, “Treat it like a loaded gun boys”!



LOGGERS INVENTIONS CONTINUE TO IMPRESS

Over the years I have been amazed by ideas loggers have come up with to do a job. I recently came upon a section of floor that needed some “buffing” but that floor was very uncomfortable on some old loggers knees.

Start with a grinder, garden rake, stabilizer (stick) and some safety mounting material (duct tape) and we are in business!

Yes he had on his safety glasses and his seat belt was secured to the lawn chair!

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