Idaho Logging Safety News

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ENJOYING THE WILDLIFE

One of the "perks" of being a lumberjack is being able to be *ONE WITH NATURE*. A perfect example of this is shown in the picture to the left where **Emmit Hileman** is holding up a 45 inch rattle snake found on his dad's (**Jim**) logging job this summer.

It was lucky that Emmit was there that day to deal with Mr. Rattler because the rest of the logging crew, including his dad, apparently had business clear on the other end of the landing!!!

In the safety classes when the topic of "Snake Bites" comes up, there is always a little squirming going on in the audience, especially up north where rattle snakes are very rare. With that in mind, Monte wanted to put this picture in the Newsletter and invite all you Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry area loggers to come on down south for a visit. He would gladly haul you out to some logging jobs where nature could "slither" right up your pant leg!

HEY TRUCK DRIVERS...THANK YOU!!!

Sometimes it seems all we do with the newsletter is complain about loggers (especially truck drivers) doing unsafe stuff. Well, I need to turn that around.

This year truckers are wrapping up at the loader (or the first safe place) and wearing their hard hats even when they are just tightening their wrappers. Oh sure, there are a few still ignoring the rules and when they get a chunk of bark on their bare head and need stitches, you ALL get to pay for that and the insurance rates that go up for those accidents, but what the heck…..

But for the true professional drivers out there doing it right, ***THANK YOU!!!*** Maybe Wally is right, Truck Drivers need to run the world!

Professional driver doing it right on a ***Renfro Logging*** *job!*

WHERE IS THE WEAKEST LINK?

By Stan

Any line skidding system is only as strong as its weakest link. It is smart to recognize that and control where the weakest link is, that way if there is a failure you have some idea of what will happen.

A lot of the line strips you guys are skidding these days are tougher than in years past. Longer skid distances with smaller machines, blind leads, rock outcrops, and tying off across the canyon to get lift resulting in fully suspended turns, all add stress to your skyline. When the old skyline is worn out and you go to get a new one a lot of guys will go to the swaged or double swaged line to increase the working load. Great idea because you get a much tougher line that is the same outside diameter as the old one so you can spool the same amount of line. The only problem is that you need to upsize your guylines as well.

Typically, guylines are round rope which is more pliable and will spool on and lay down on the smaller diameter guyline drums better. But your guylines need to be at least as strong if not stronger than your skyline.

Lets say you have ¾ round rope skyline and guylines. If you change over to ¾ swaged line for a skyline you increase the breaking strength by around nine tons. With double swaged you increase it by over sixteen tons. If you are still using the same ¾ round rope guylines you now have the weakest link in the system behind you holding up the machine...***NOT A GOOD IDEA!!!!***

Skidding systems are designed so that the most likely failure will do the least damage. If you break a choker its annoying but not a big problem. Break the skidding line, yeah, a little bigger problem. Break the skyline, ooh, now we have dropped the carriage. True, they are making more of them every day and they will exchange them for money, but it is a lot of money, so this is a bigger problem yet.

All of this pales in comparison to breaking your guylines and tipping the machine off over the edge of the hill possibly injuring or killing the operator and damaging or destroying the machine. You can see why the line strength gets higher as the line becomes more critical.

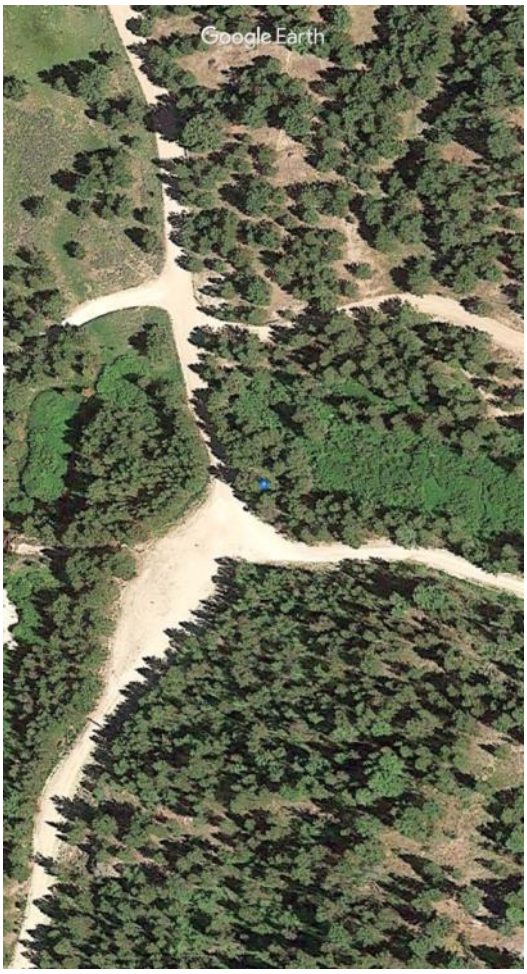
We need to think about our skidding systems as a whole with several integral parts. We need to think about those parts in relation to one another. We need to know the breaking strengths of the lines we are using and use the right strength line in the right place. Just because it is the same diameter doesn't mean it is the same breaking strength.

Lets control where the WEAKEST LINK is, and don't ever let it be behind you!

If you have questions about breaking strength ratings for different lines look on page 84 of the new Idaho Minimum Safety Standards For Logging. The latest edition with all the new and updated information is out and you can get one from your area Logging Safety Advisor.

GOOGLE EARTH and OTHER APPS LOGGERS CAN USE

By Monte



Improved cell service has led to phones being a more reliable tool for emergency communications for the logging industry. This improved cell service has also made apps such as Google Earth more useful also.

With Google Earth not only is it possible to obtain your *GPS CO-ORDINATES* you can also *"fly"* around to get a look at the area around your current location. You can identify other potential landing zones and get a look at the job that you just can't get from the ground. It is very easy to use an app, that also has the capability to save a screenshot of your location and share it with others.

Compass or GPS apps are also very useful. Almost every phone made now has built in GPS sensors. They no longer have to rely on cell service to obtain your location information. I have a good GPS but my phone is much faster obtaining co-ordinates and is generally just as accurate.

Many logging equipment companies have apps that lets you identify parts you need and contact a local dealer for a price quote. Apps like these can help limit the amount of time you need to spend on the phone making calls. There are also several apps that let you look up and save SDS sheets for chemicals on your jobsite.

There are altitude apps, decibel meter apps, first aid apps, clinometer apps and many other useful apps. If you have Google Play on your android phone or App Store on your iPhone just type in what you're looking for and odds are there's an app for it. Most of these apps are free and I just download the highest rated one that fits what I'm looking for.

IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY ADVISORS

Please let us know about accidents you have so we can pass along information that might avoid the same thing happening on another logging job around the state. If you have any safety "issues" we might be able to help out with, give us a call. Remember, this safety program was built to assist the loggers here in Idaho!

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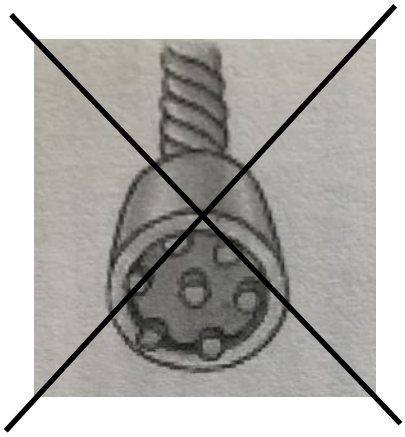
NEW LINE SKIDDING CABLE REQUIREMENTS...QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

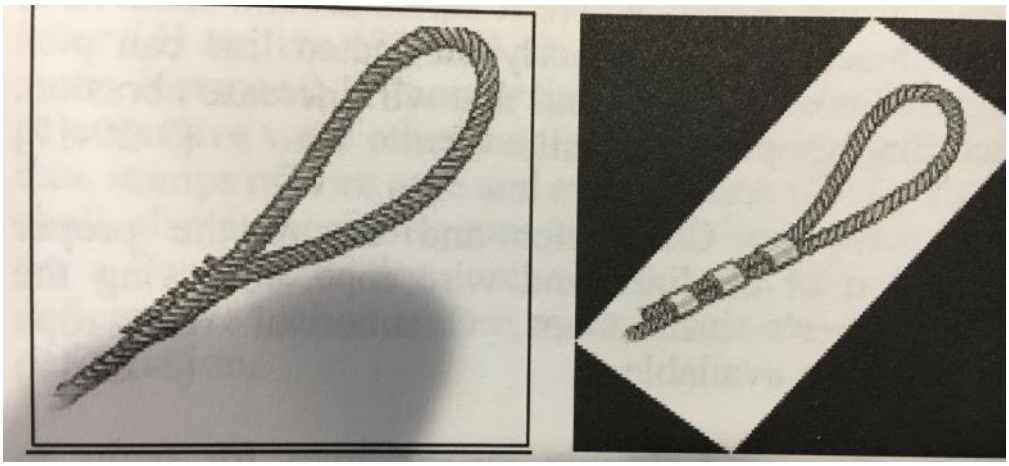
There have been a lot of questions this season about the rules regarding eyes and buttons on the end of sky-lines and guylines. Wedge buttons and pressed buttons are not legal for use in skyline or guyline applications, neither is a farmers eye using cable clamps. What is legal is a three tuck spliced eye, an eye secured by compressed sleeves, or a poured button. There are a couple of different types of poured buttons, the old zinc type and the newer epoxy type. This new epoxy is fairly easy to use and can be done in the woods.

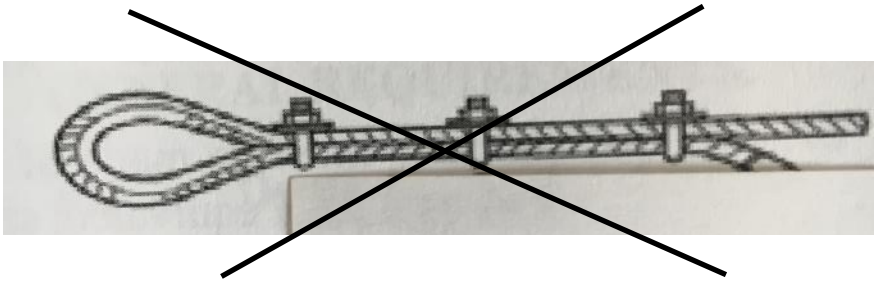


Wedged and Pressed buttons are not legal for skyline or guylines but still OK for skidding line and chokers

Poured buttons are required for skylines and guylines if using a button and bell.

If you are using eyes for skylines and guylines you need a three tuck spliced eye or an eye secured with compressed sleeves.





Eyes, such as the one to the left and farmers eyes secured with clamps are not legal for skylines and guylines. They are OK for other uses on line jobs.

Poured buttons must have a date stamp on them, but you are not allowed to stamp directly onto the button. Most people are using small metal tags like dog tags to stamp the date onto and then they attach that to the cable.

Continued on page 6

OUT OF SITE …. OUT OF MIND

By Stan

FIRST AID KITS*, a vital piece of safety equipment with potentially lifesaving supplies when you need them….but an often neglected dust bunny collector when you don't!*

A recent safety inspection in the woods revealed a hidden problem. The crew I was with produced their first aid kit on request and proudly said they had never had to open it. I thought being that safe was a great thing but then I opened the box to check the contents. It was one of the old army ammo can kits and all the supplies inside were soaking wet. Part of this was due to the anti-biotic crème exploding from the heat and part appeared to be condensation.

I searched through the mess looking for anything that might still be usable and I found the eyewash bottle, which expired in 1994! Thankfully this crew had never had to use anything out of this kit, but it did point out the need to check your kits at least once a year.

First aid kits for logging have a very specific list of supplies that are required to be OSHA compliant. All those supplies and the list have to be in the kit, which makes it easy to go down the list to make sure they are.

We talk all the time about making sure all your safety equipment is in good working order. That way when you need it, it will do its job. First aid kits are no different. Make sure they are fully stocked and if you do use something be sure to get it replaced. The last thing you want to happen during a medical emergency is find out that no one has checked the kit since 1994 and you really don't have a kit after all. Don't let it be *out of sight … out of mind!*

REQUIRED CONTENTS FOR LOGGING 1ST AID KITS

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 agents such as sealed moistened towelettes*
7. *Scissors*
8. *In Idaho, TWO blankets*
9. *Tweezers*
10. *Adhesive tape*
11. *Latex gloves*
12. *Resuscitation equipment such as resuscitation bag, airway or pocket mask*
13. *Two elastic wraps*
14. *Splint*
15. *Directions for requesting emergency assistance*

NEED TO SHORTEN UP GUYS!

By Terry

It has been extremely dry to say the least this summer and that has made it hard on everyone. The roads are deep dust which means you have beat the road down to rocks. So it is rough, hot, dusty and you can't see which makes it hard on equipment.

But with a hot, dry summer, it usually means companies go after wood that is in hard to get places, like draws and creek bottoms or down in holes where it is too wet the other times of the year.

That is great, but it means tough conditions for trucks. It can get real expensive quickly trying to pull up out of these spots without spinning out, blowing a tire, losing a rear end or *pulling out from under the load!*

That is what I want to talk about, losing the load off the bunks. You need a tight bunk load and the logs sufficiently ahead of the bunk to hold when pulling out of those holes, not spread apart for weight distribution or other reasons. The minimum "overhang" is 12 inches ahead and sometimes it takes more to hold and make it safe and stable.

Almost daily on the road I see trucks with 6 inches or less bunked, and that is not enough guys. Cedar is not even heavy and I have seen them spread to the max with inches holding. In the past, I have seen two times where trucks have come apart on the highway when braking. One, the load came off the front bunk and the other the load pulled off the trailer bunk. It was a mess, but thankfully no one was hurt.

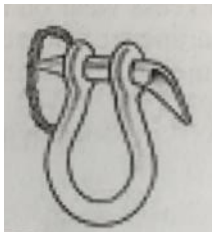
Idaho Minimum Safety Standards state: Bunk Logs shall extend not less than twelve (12) inches beyond the bunks.

Questions Answered from page 4

Advantages and disadvantages for the three legal options; ***Three Tuck Eye*** – can be done in the woods but it may take a little time if you haven't done it before. ***Eye with Compressed Sleeves*** – does not have the tails to hang up as you pull it through the brush but it must be installed at your cable supplier. ***Poured Button*** – is fairly easy to do, can be done in the woods, but it takes a little while to set up and you must attach a date stamp. You may also have to go up one size on your button depending on what line you are using.

Screw Pin Shackles are not legal for skylines and guylines. Still OK for other uses in the woods.

Knockout Shackles used for skylines and guylines must be secured by a nut, pin or molly.



If you are using either one of the legal eyes you have to use the right shackle to secure it. Screw pin shackles are not legal for guyline or skyline applications. Knockout shackles secured by a nut and or pin or molly must be used. The shackle you use must be rated higher than the breaking strength of the line it is used on. If the load rating is not marked on the shackle or available from the supplier do not use it. There is a lot of difference in shackles and pin diameter is not a good measure of the load rating. Shackles with similar load ratings can vary quite a bit in diameter.

SOMETHING NEW THAT MIGHT HELP YOU OUT WITH "DOCUMENTATION"

You contractors are doing a great job with all the safety stuff that is thrown at you constantly, but if there is a little bit of a "down side" it is the documentation end of things. You hire a new person and do all the training on how you want them to do their job, but sometimes forget to write it down. I mean after only 15 hours of arguing with the forester, looking for the ticket book the last truck driver left "*right by that one tree",* chasing on the landing because the new hooker "*didn't hear the alarm go off Dude"*, running back to town to get fuel and putting up with a logging safety guy that wants to know why marker 13 was leaning over, you would think you would be looking forward to sitting down at night to do ***DOCUMENTATION!***

Anyway, to try and help with the training and documentation of new hires and ALL crew members once a year, we have added the Basic Job Guidelines to the Division of Building Safety's Website. Just go to —***Idaho Division of Building Safety*** on your computer, then hit —***DBS Programs***, then hit —***Logging Safety***, then —***Basic Job Safety Training Guidelines***.

They will all pop up and you can pick Truck Driver, Faller, Mechanic, etc., whatever you need. Run through it with the new hires and then the crew once a year, have them sign off and we have ***DOCUMENTATION!!!***

Remember, this is for YOUR company so if you want to add other company policies, feel free to do so.

CAT/SKIDDER OPERATOR

JOB TASK: Skid and Deck Logs, Construct Skid Trails and Landings

EMPLOYEE: _____
(Please print)

DATE: _____

[ ] 1. Review company safety plan

[ ] 2. Provide employee with a copy of Idaho Minimum Safety Standards for Logging to review job related rules.

[ ] 3. First-Aid
[ ] First-Aid cards current [ ] First-Aid Kit locations
[ ] Backboard locations

[ ] 4. Personal safety equipment
[ ] Hard hats [ ] Hearing protection
[ ] Dust mask (when necessary) [ ] Boots

[ ] 5. Seat belts worn

[ ] 6. Review hazardous communication and location of SDS sheets

[ ] 7. Jill pokes, snags, danger tree, etc., will be dealt with immediately.

[ ] 8. Fire prevention
[ ] Fire extinguishers checked monthly and signed off on.
[ ] Brush, needles, etc., will be kept cleaned out around engines and exhaust system.

[ ] 9. Review tag-out and energy control procedures.

[ ] 10. Clear communication procedure
[ ] Fool-proof, safe communication with fallers in area (NEVER ASSUME)
[ ] Know location of ALL landing personnel (if you don't know, STOP).

[ ] 11. Use steps; do not jump from machines.

[ ] 12. Avoid high-speed operation of rubber-tired skidders.

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE _____

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