

Idaho Logging Safety News Volume 32 Number 1 February 2021



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

Brad Little, Governor
Ron Whitney, Administrator
Molly & Jenna, Editors

CHANGES TO THIS SPRING'S SAFETY CLASSES YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF!!!

Because of the COVID 19, meetings such as our annual Logging Safety classes are limited to 50 people. So, the classes have been scheduled as ***TWO-A-DAY***, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. This was done to try and get all the training done in March and April when most companies are in lay off mode.

The biggest change is that ***PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!*** You can look at the schedule (*on page 2*) to determine which class you would like to attend, then get ahold of either Julie or Jolene at the Associated Logging Contractors office at 208-667-3473 to set a date and time. You can also email julie@idahologgers.com or jolene@idahologgers.com for a direct link for registration.

Check-in for morning classes will begin at 7:00 A.M. with the class starting at 8:00 A.M. and be done at noon. Check-in for afternoon classes will begin at 12:15 P.M. with the class starting at 1:00 P.M. and ending by 5:00 p.m.

As of now, the rules on such things like wearing face masks vary from Health District to Health District throughout Idaho. Who knows where we will be in a month or two from now, but it might not be a bad idea to bring a face mask along in case we are required to wear them.



4 LEGGED PARTNER

By Shawn Ogden

I would like to get more pictures of you loggers in the newsletter whenever it's possible. After all, you are the main characters! I couldn't resist adding this picture. ***Jason Parks*** and ***Zeus*** work for ***Storm Creek Timber Falling*** and are cutting logs on one of ***Brown Brothers*** jobs above Smiths Ferry.

They have a good partnership and were doing a good job. As I came walking down the skid trail, Zeus was curled up on top the berm of snow on the outside of the trail where he could keep an eye on Jason as he worked below. For a minute, I felt like I might have been stepping on Zeus's toes because it appeared like he had taken full responsibility for the safety of the area, and he was doing a good job too. The tension was broke and there were no hard feelings from me encroaching on the work area, as long as I gave him a good scratch behind the ear. Zeus also requested that Andy, (*Storm Creek's* owner) give him a raise because the price of biscuits has been on the rise lately...

SCHEDULE OF LOGGING FIRST AID AND SAFETY TRAINING CLASSES

LOCATION	DATE 2021	DAY	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	ADDRESS
Coeur d'Alene	March 9	Tuesday	✓	✓	ALC Office, 10589 S Hwy 95
Coeur d'Alene	March 10	Wednesday	✓	✓	ALC Office, 10589 S Hwy 95
Orofino	March 11	Thursday	✓	✓	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
Orofino	March 12	Friday	✓	✓	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
St. Maries	March 16	Tuesday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
St. Maries	March 17	Wednesday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
Pierce	March 18	Thursday	✓	Tentative	Pierce Community Center
Grangeville	March 19	Friday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 111 S. Meadow
Bonnars Ferry	March 23	Tuesday	✓	✓	Kootenai River Inn, 7169 Plaza St.
Bonnars Ferry	March 24	Wednesday	✓	✓	Kootenai River Inn, 7169 Plaza St.
Lewiston	March 25	Thursday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 34444 Country Club Drive
Lewiston	March 26	Friday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 34444 Country Club Drive
McCall	March 30	Tuesday	✓	✓	Holiday Inn, 210 N. 3 rd St
St. Maries	March 31	Wednesday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
St. Maries	April 1	Thursday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
Coeur d'Alene	April 2	Friday	✓	✓	ALC Office, 10589 S Hwy 95
Emmett	April 5	Monday	✓	✓	Emmett Nazarene Church, 1144 N. Washington
Emmett	April 6	Tuesday	✓	Tentative	Emmett Nazarene Church, 1144 N. Washington
Orofino	April 13	Tuesday	✓	✓	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
Orofino	April 14	Wednesday	✓	✓	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
Ponderay	April 15	Thursday	✓	✓	Ponderay Even Center, 401 Bonner Way, Suite E
Ponderay	April 16		✓	✓	Ponderay Even Center, 401 Bonner Way, Suite E
St. Maries	April 20	Tuesday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
St. Maries	April 21		✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
St. Maries – Titus	April 27	Tuesday	✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
St. Maries – Hansen	April 28		✓	✓	Elks Lodge, 628 Main Ave
Moscow	April 29		✓	✓	Latah County Fairgrounds, 1021 Herald St
Moscow	April 30		✓	✓	Latah County Fairgrounds, 1021 Herald St

*Tentative if morning class fills & there is a need for an afternoon class.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN...LOOK UP!!

By Terry Streeter

Last season until now has definitely been out of the normal with the danger of the COVID 19. Washing everything, staying at home, public distancing, and wearing masks, and I still don't know if that is enough. The last time I remember being told to wear a mask was back in 1980 when Mount St. Helens blew and there was 3 inches of coarse ash on the ground. With that, you could at least see what could hurt you if you breathed it in.

Last 4th of July and Labor Day, we had winds break off and blow down trees in our area. I lost 8 trees; 2 barely missing my house by 5 feet! The clean up around the Northwest was extensive.

A couple of weeks ago Mother Nature showed us who is boss again when we had a huge wind storm blow through with gusts of 70 mph. The gusts hit so fast that when some of the trees bent over and came back, they broke off and fell into the wind or fell sideways. Most, of course, were blown over in the direction of the hard-blowing wind. This devastated the Northwest knocking down power lines, blocking roads, smashing cars and homes. I have talked to loggers that said it took several days to clean up blow-downs.

Now, even though it's been a couple of weeks, there is still a big danger out on the logging jobs. I am hearing that there are leaning trees and snags from the storm tipped into trees everywhere in strips. There are tops of trees, limbs, chunks of snags (*widow makers*) in the standing timber, which are falling on bunchers and skidders. Sawing is slowed down because of the danger so they can safely deal with it, and some trucks have even told me they have had to clear the roadway in the morning, even during the day, from *widow makers* falling.

*Moral of the stories above: Don't let your guard down! Take precautions, not chances! Take your time and deal with the dangers! Play it safe and **always keep looking up!!!***

PROBLEM SOLVED!!!

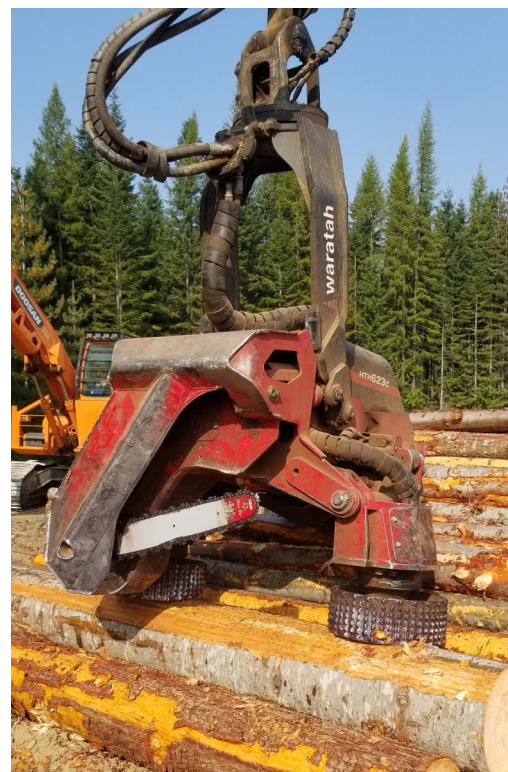
By Stan Leach

The crew from ***Nelson Brothers Timber Management*** takes safety very seriously. After attending the first aid class last spring and hearing about the safety issues with dangle head processors, they went back to the job to figure out how to place the head in a zero-energy state that would still be easy to work on.

To place the head on the ground to work on the main saw, you end up on your knees with little room to do the job. To hang the head in the air is not allowed (*and not the best idea*) because it is unsafe to be under it.

Bill Thomas, processor operator, and co-owner Bret Nelson, tested several different head positions until they found something that fit all the required criteria. The picture shows how they place the head on a deck so that it is secure and still easy to work on. Good job guys!

Loggers are the ones with the experience and knowledge!



CLIMBER RESCUE TRAINING

By Shawn Ogden

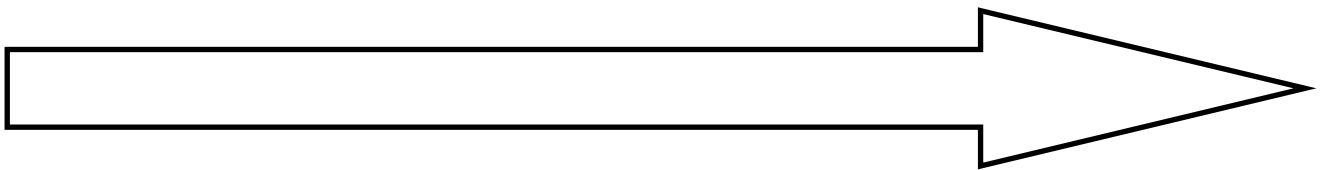
You might remember an article from last summer where we filmed a climber rescue video with the *Dunkel Logging Crew*. After we finished filming that day, we all put our heads together and came up with a list of gear that needed to be readily available “in case of an emergency”. That gear has now been assembled into a climber rescue kit and is available through the ALC. It is as basic of kit as we could come up with while maintaining cost efficiency and still containing quality rescue gear. I would like to recommend that in addition to having the gear necessary to rescue a climber, you guys consider *retiring any old leather climbing belts* and replace them with a saddle that includes leg straps and some form of suspender or chest harness that will prevent the climber from slipping out of the harness, no matter what position he is in. Having a bridge or *srt* attachment point on a harness will be an additional benefit that will allow the rescue climber to belay an injured climber if he happens to be the only other employee available.

I know what some of you guys are thinking, “*Man, that’s going to cost a fortune and all that extra stuff is going to be heavy and obnoxious*”. I can’t argue the point of it being expensive,; it is! However, I can say that there is new gear out there that is lighter, more user friendly and very comfortable. When choosing a new saddle, find one that has good wide back support. If you spend a considerable portion of your day in a tree, you will appreciate that comfort. I say this as a recommendation only; it is not a requirement. As the safety guy, it is easy for me to recommend that you spend your hard-earned money on good quality gear. I have your best interests in mind; it’s just that sometimes your best interests don’t jive with your wallet....

Now that you are broke from spending all your money on new climbing gear, I am going to ask you to take part of a day off and let us come out and instruct you on ***CLIMBER RESCUE***. We have already done this for a handful of the line crews. I can’t express how much I have enjoyed this so far! Working with you loggers is the best part of being a safety guy. During the rescue training, you can either play the part of the injured climber or you can be the rescuer. The climber is always more than happy to play the part of the injured man until I tell him the other guys on the crew are about to lower him from the tree and he has no control over whether he falls or not. At this point, the rescuers usually get a devilish grin on their face.

For those of you that we have worked with so far, I want to say, “thank you”, it has been a lot of fun. I also really appreciate that the boss’s willingness to shut down the logging operation for a few hours so we can squeeze in this training. I know that does not come cheap, but it shows that you care about your employees. If you have any questions about these items or anything else pertaining to climber rescue, please don’t hesitate to contact me. We also have a ***WRITTEN CLIMBER RESCUE PLAN*** we can share with you if you need one.

If you are thinking about putting together your own kit, I have listed the items along with the photo on the next page that are included in the kit we put together. These items are either labeled with an OSHA approval or have a minimum breaking strength of 5400 pounds (*which is a requirement, see pg. 67 of the Idaho Minimum Safety Standards book for the climbing rules*).



To request a *Rescue Plan* or schedule a *Climber Rescue Class*, please contact the logging safety advisor in your area. We will be more than happy to put you through the pure hel.....I mean training!

HOW DO YOU “MEASURE UP”?

Information Passed Along by Stan Leach

I have always been impressed with how loggers constantly find simple and practical solutions to everyday problems. I pulled in to a job the other day where **Don Reid** had just finished loading one of his trucks. Don owns a small fleet of trucks that haul for **Titus Logging** in the St. Maries area. He runs the loader for Titus and said that makes it easy to keep track of what is happening with the trucks.

The driver was securing the wrappers and I noticed Don was painting the load. Then I saw him working the paint can against a log. I assumed he was just trying to shake up the contents, but there seemed to be more to it than that. I had to ask because of my undying curiosity—turns out he was checking log diameters.

There are a lot of log sorts on the jobs anymore. I have heard of as high as seventeen different sorts in a mixed species stand. Often there are several diameter and length sorts for each species. Imagine having ten loads on the ground in front of you and not enough for a full load of any sort. No wonder the loader guys get crabby.

To be sure the right logs go to the right mills, Don often checks the diameters using his paint can. He said the can with the top on is eight inches long and the can diameter is two and a half inches across. Two cans is sixteen inches, three cans plus the diameter is twenty six and a half (*Don obviously paid attention in math class*). That works well because two of the sorts are for sixteen and twenty-seven inches. He said it would be hard to keep track of a tape measure but he has the can in hand every time he gets out of the machine to paint a load. Simple, practical solution. Thanks Don for sharing that bit of wisdom!



Required Items for Your Company's RESCUE CLIMBING KIT!

- 3 Double Locking Carabiners
- Rescue 8 Descender
- Rope with Sewn Tight Eye (Preferably 150' of 1/2 12-Strand)
- 1" x 10' Nylon Sling
- Micro Pulley
- Rope Bag with Shoulder Straps that Allow it to be Used as a Backpack
- 30' of 1" Tubular Webbing
- Full Body Harness and One Extra Wire Core Flip Line

(Flip Line Not Pictured)

AN END TO A SEASON

By Shawn Ogden

This season is finally coming to a close and many of you will be thankful that you no longer have to fight with the deep snow or mud that makes working in the woods such a daunting task this time of year. After finishing a full season of work, a logger can rest easy in their recliner and not feel guilty for not accomplishing anything for the next month or so. You have worked hard enough throughout the year; you deserve some time off. As for you loggers that don't get that well deserved "reset" every spring, I feel sorry for you, but I also admire your work ethic. With any luck, you will get to take a short-earned break before you start worrying about everything that needs to be taken care of before next season begins.

A logger's life is not easy. You folks have gotten up, eaten breakfast, and left town before the neighbor's lights have come on. Some of you will get started working way before the sun even thinks about peaking over the distant ridge, while the rest of you will sit patiently in the pickup waiting for enough light that you can safely get your day started. Regardless of what time any of you start work in the morning, you will all put in a hard day's work.

If you are one of the crews that actually stops to eat lunch, you are very fortunate. That 30 minutes is a well deserved rest that gives you a moment to enjoy your sandwich, wind down a little, and visit with the rest of the crew. You know you have a good hand working around the landing when they have the perfect shady lunch spot picked out in the summer or has thrown an extra arm load of wood on the fire in preparation for those wet crew members that are about to start emerging from the brush on a cold winter's day. I worked with an excellent landing man one time that always made sure the fire was burning good and hot. He would even check everyone's lunch box to see if they had any food that required heating, so it was ready to be eaten when all the guys came in for lunch. On one particular day, I had a can of chili in my lunch box and I was really looking forward to it because it had been an exceptionally cold, miserable day. As I came dragging myself into the landing, I noticed several beans laying here and there in the snow. Well you may have guessed it, he forgot to poke a hole in the top of my can of chili and there were beans scattered over the entire job. I can just about bet that most of you loggers have a similar lunch time story....

One of the best motivators after sitting around a nice warm fire at lunch time is the cold that quickly starts setting in after leaving the heat of the fire. A logger doesn't stand around for long; they get right back to work before they freeze to death!

After what usually seems like a long afternoon, you should be ready to do your afternoon chores and head back home for the night. It has been a long hard day and again, you deserve some time to rest. Many of you loggers will work until after dark getting everything ready to go tomorrow, which will be much like today, a long hard day spent working in the woods. Day after day you have spent busting your butt to earn a paycheck, but I would guess that most of you folks do it because it's a lifestyle, and for some reason, *we all enjoy it!* Have a good spring and don't forget, be safe out there!



ARE YOU ON THE SPOT?

By Stan Leach

Good communication is crucial to any successful logging operation. Several of the companies I have seen recently have invested in the *SPOT* brand locator devices. They are satellite based and the guys said they haven't found anywhere they don't work yet. They can text on this device and can even preset a text message ahead of time and plus it has an **SOS** button that will summon emergency rescue if necessary.

In my service area, (and logging jobs throughout the state) there are several places where the cell service is iffy to non-existent. The crews I talked to said this has helped fill in those gaps.

There was a story on the news last year where a pilot in a small plane had an engine failure and crashed into a tree. The plane was entangled in the tree top and fortunately didn't fall out. The pilot, who was unhurt at this point, signaled an SOS on his SPOT device. It led rescuers directly to his GPS location. They were able to safely lower him to the ground.

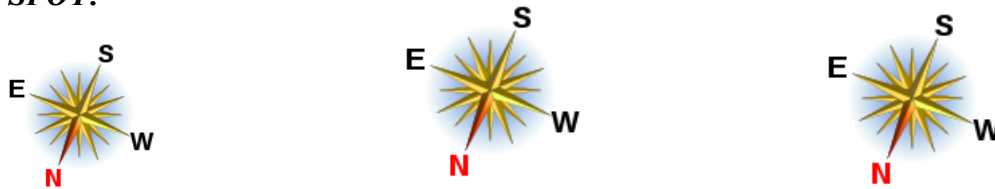
This incident took place in the Idaho backcountry and without the exact GPS location, rescue might have been a long time coming.

It always amazes me how hard it is to find a person or vehicle if you are not sure of their location. We have had a couple of longtime residents in my area that have gone missing out in the woods this year. Despite thousands of man hours invested, including dog teams and helicopters, they have not yet been found. I can't help but think about how much easier it would be if there was a way to track their location. At least to bring closure for the families if nothing else.

There are several different GPS locator devices on the market. The SPOT brand just happened to be what the crews I talked to were using. If you spend time in the backcountry or just in areas with no cell service, this may be a good communication option for you.

You are not allowed to have employees working alone unless they have a means to communicate with someone else. They also must check-in on a regular basis. These devices can fill this need and according to the guys that have them, they work well. The only downside I have found so far is that they work by text message and at this point, State Comm., the people we call for logging emergencies, can't receive text messages. At least you could reach someone else who then could call State Comm. for you.

It might be worth the time to check out these devices. If you need help, you want that help coming to ***THE RIGHT SPOT!***



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PRST-STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 3
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The Idaho Logging Safety News

Is published quarterly by the Division of Building Safety

It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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