

Idaho Logging Safety News Volume 32 Number 2 June 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

FIRST AID REQUIRED FOR ALL LOGGERS!!!!

Any person performing work associated with a logging operation shall be required to complete an approved course in first aid and have a current card. (Contractors, Individual Truck Owners and ALL employees)

With the State of Idaho's Logging Safety Program working with the Associated Logging Contractors (ALC) offering the safety classes each year, the majority of our loggers get that training, however, there are people that work out of state during the time we do the spring safety classes. We also have folks that get hired just as the logging companies are starting to go to the woods for the year, which means they have also missed the spring classes. These two scenarios do not make anyone *exempt*, so I will mention a couple of options that you may consider to get that FIRST AID TRAINING!

Option 1: Call the ALC office (208-667-6473) and tell them you or an employee needs first aid training. Our plan is that when we get enough folks registered to make it feasible, we will do another safety class.

If you or an employee needs the training, put down the newsletter NOW and make that call! For your company to be in compliance, this is not something that can be put off.

Option 2: Get yourself and/or your employee into one of the first aid classes offered to the public. Make sure it is a full class, meaning it also covers CPR. Have that employee show proof (their card) to you and then document they have that training.

Part of our "Check List" we go over with the crews out in the woods pertains to this subject, so it is in all our interest to ***Get'er Done!***

2021 SAFETY CLASSES.....WOW!!!

For all those timber folks that did attend this year's classes, I just want to say thanks. With the COVID, things were a bit trying.

Henry and Kristy Tucker were among those that officially made it through the class and were presented with a Certificate and First Aid card. **Henry** also had his Logging Emergency Plan (Red Book) ready to fill out for his next logging job. **Kristy** is a Silviculture Forester for **PotlatchDeltic**.

*I want to thank **Henry** for helping me keep those loggers in line. One look from him and those lumberjacks sat back and payed attention!*



Don't Forget!

By Shawn Ogden

Another logging season is underway and you can be sure that the logging safety guys will be out checking to make sure you have crossed your T's and dotted your I's. I know it must seem like there are a thousand little rules that you have to follow, but it really is not that bad. Whether you know it or not, you guys follow most of the safety rules out of complete habit.

Working safely is something that was probably taught to you by an old-timer when you first started logging. When safety is taught by a fellow worker, it seems to mean more than when it is taught by someone whose job it is to preach safety. Do not be afraid to help remind the guys you work with to work safely. If you see something going on that looks unsafe, say something!

You don't have to say, *"Hey Dipstick, you are going to get yourself hurt"*. You might word it a little differently, *"Hey, from here it looks like you might be in a bad spot"* or *"Don't forget your safety glasses"*.

An encouraging reminder will go a lot further than a seemingly rude insult.

Here is a list of a few important things that you should not forget.

1. **Emergency Rescue Plan** - Don't forget to fill it out **before** you start working!
2. **Logging Signs** - Did you put up your *"Trucks Entering Highway"*, *"Logging Operations Ahead"* and *"Tree Felling Ahead"* signs. Don't forget to post your *"CB Channel"* as well.
3. **Basic Job Safety Training Guidelines**- Don't forget to have all the employees fill out the training guidelines; it is required once a year and it doesn't matter how many years you have been doing your job, you still have to do it.
4. **Fire Extinguishers** - Your extinguishers need to be re-certified once a year by a qualified company. Don't forget to check them once a month to make sure they are in good usable condition. Make sure you initial and date the extinguisher after that inspection.
5. **Tailgate Safety Meetings** - Once a month, go over some important safety topics. It can be as simple as reminding everyone the procedure to follow in case of an accident, or it can be something specifically related to the job you are working on. No matter how long you have been doing the same thing over and over, reminders are always a good thing. Don't forget to record your topics of discussion in your tailgate safety meeting books.

So that is my list.....but don't forget all the things I haven't mentioned!!!!



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

By Stan Leach

It would be easy to see somebody else doing things unsafe and think, “*That’s not my problem*”. If it was someone from a different company or somebody you didn’t know, it would be easy to just ignore it. The reality is that in Idaho, in the logging industry, we all end up partially paying for each other’s mistakes.

Workman’s Compensation Insurance rates are determined in part by looking at losses across the industry. Those losses, yours, and everyone else’s, help determine the base rate for Work Comp Insurance. In Idaho all the different jobs or class codes are lumped together because we have such a small pool of workers. Other states have a large enough pool that they can separate the different jobs and assign a different base rate for each class code. For example, a machine operator may cost seven dollars per hundred dollars in wages, while a sawyer may cost twenty dollars per hundred dollars in wages for Comp Insurance. The losses and risk are kept within each different class code.

In Idaho, as I mentioned, because of our limited pool of workers, we are all lumped together. Whether you are a sawyer or a truck driver, we all start at the same base rate. Now, there is a *modification* of that base rate based on each individual company’s loss ratio, called an “experience modification”. This “*mod*” is applied to that base rate so if you have minimal losses, your overall rate will go down, or if you have significant losses, your overall rate will go up.

Now if you’re a truck driver, you may feel like you don’t have as much risk as a guy involved in the logging process and you may think that the class codes should be separated because it would reduce what you have to pay. The reality is right now, that if the class codes were separated, the rates for the drivers would go up and the rates for the guys on the logging end would go down.

Before you guys on the logging side of things start thinking that the separation might be a good thing, you need to remember that it was only a few years ago that the losses on the logging side were much higher than the losses on the trucking side. Being lumped together has brought some protection and stability for all of us.

The opportunity in all this is if we can reduce the number of accidents, we will all benefit from lower comp rates. At a time when we have to watch every dollar that goes out in expenses, lower insurance rates would be a blessing.

We do have some control over whether or not this happens. We need to get our own house in order, so to speak, by making sure our own company is being safe. Then if you see someone else being unsafe, don’t be afraid to speak up. As was mentioned in Shawn’s article, you don’t have to be a jerk about it, but just mention it and remind them that their accidents cost us all.....

BECAUSE WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!!!!



IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY PROGRAM WILL WORK UNDER A “NEW” NAME

By Larry Jeffres Region 1 Manager for the Division of Building Safety



Scott Jensen, Bill Watson, Section Chief MiChell Bird and George Jensen were hanging out together at the Emmett safety class.

Added together, Bill and George have only worked in the woods for about 120 years. They invited MiChell to come out to the woods and visit if she ever gets the time. Scott said Bill and George are very safe and productive....until the HUCKELBERRIES get ripe. That huckleberry thing seemed to interest MiChell!!! Welcome aboard, MiChell!!!

organization chart which are separated by areas of practice with each section having a section chief. The ILS program will be managed by **Section Chief, MiChell Bird**. It is Ms. Bird who the ILS team will interact with on a direct basis through the ILS Program Manager. In trying to get a better feel for the ILS program, Bird attended one of the First Aid/Logging Safety trainings in Emmett a few weeks back as provided by the ILS team and the Associated Logging Contractors, (see above photo). We look forward to working with MiChell and Russ Barron going forward.

A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AS WE HEAD TO THE WOODS:

Talking to a few loggers at the safety classes this spring, they thanked me for making up their company safety plan....TEN YEARS AGO! Their point was, it probably wasn't a bad idea to update every now and then. (Time kinda flies by!) Anyway, if your company safety plan needs updated, get a hold of the safety guy in your area and we can get that done!

Another question I heard was concerning adding STATE COMM to your company's VHF radio. The first step is to get in touch with your safety guy, again, and we will get you the paperwork that allows the radio people to add that F-2 Frequency to your VHF radios. The same process goes if you are just wanting it done to a VHF hand held radio used for Emergencies only. It takes about a minute and has proven to be a key component in saving a life!

As some of you already know, the Idaho Logging Safety (ILS) program has resided under the Division of Building Safety (DBS) for many, many years. It has been a wonderful relationship between DBS and our ILS inspector/advisors and we look forward to many more years together. But, as sometimes happens for many organizations, even state government, we are reorganizing a little bit.

DBS is being incorporated with 10 other self-governing state agencies with 49 boards that have the common thread of licensing running through them, all under one umbrella agency called the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (IDOPL). Though the ILS program has no licensing element to it, we will reside under IDOPL just like all the other programs under DBS. The most important element for the logging industry related to this change is, nothing changes! The ILS inspectors/advisors will be performing their duties in the very same fashion as in the past. We will simply have a different parent agency than DBS.

The one change that will occur is there will be a new IDOPL administrator by the name of **Russell Barron**. There are four sections in the IDOPL

FIFTY THREE CLASSES AND MORE TO COME!!!

By Stan Speaking for All Four of Us Safety Guys

I have had the privilege to teach fifty-three first aid classes this year so far. I always enjoy the chance to travel around the state and visit with loggers. You guys always have lots of funny and informative stories. Some of these stories end up in the first aid videos for coming years and some end up as newsletter articles like this one. One of the stories we heard this year was from a guy that had already been to class. He called Galen a few days later to relay the details.

He said a few days after attending the safety class, he was out walking his dog. On the way back home, he said his hand and arm started going numb. At first, he thought it wasn't a big deal, but he got to thinking about what we said in class about heart attacks. He got home, and with his wife, went in to the doctor.

A couple of tests later and he was on his way to the hospital. They placed three stints in his arteries to reestablish good blood flow and he was back home not too long after. The doctors told him that because he had come in quickly, there was no damage to the heart muscle.

I often wonder, being the safety guy, if what we do makes a difference. Are we helping to prevent accidents? Are we helping to save lives? Stories like this one make me believe we are.

There were several other stories we heard this year from you guys about situations where you used the first aid techniques you learned in class and it resulted in a good outcome. Thank you for sharing those!

Many of you have heard my story how I was electrocuted and brought back to life by a guy that learned CPR in the first aid class. I have lived and laughed for twenty-seven years since that day. I have helped teach fifty-three classes so far this year and would gladly teach fifty-three more if what we teach saves one life. Be safe. See you out in the woods.

(Like I mentioned up above, this is Stan's article but his thoughts come from all four of the Idaho Logging Safety Guys! -Galen)



YOUR IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY ADVISORS

*Shawn Ogden 208-271-6872
shawn.ogden@dbs.idaho.gov*

*Stan Leach 208-512-2354
stan.leach@dbs.idaho.gov*

LOG SAFE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

*Terry Streeter 208-446-4149
terry.streeter@dbs.idaho.gov*

*Galen Hamilton 208-553-6207
galen.hamilton@dbs.idaho.gov*



(I received Terry's and Ken's articles at about the same time and thought "Hey, these guys are thinking down the same lines", so I put them in side by side! Galen)

SPRING FIRES CAN GO WRONG

By Terry Streeter

It is a dry spring out there already with not much snow or rain. What snow we did get melted with the warm weather and the high winds we've been having. The experts are predicting, and I have to agree, we are looking at another "bad" fire year.

There have been fires all over the Northwest already. Big landing brush piles that have gotten away, blow down brush piles, some right along the roads that were left unattended, went up into the timber.

Burning slash in the spring has always led to problems. I was always taught if it is too wet to burn in the fall, you waited till the next fall to burn. One of the fears of burning in the spring is that the big logs, stumps, and deep roots would smolder until July or August, then a hot summer wind could ignite them again.

I know of 8 fires in my area already. 5 brush or brush piles, 1 buncher, 1 processor, and one from a man grinding.

Apparently he was working up above on a lowboy and the sparks from the grinding found their way into the pine needles and duff in the goose neck. They smoldered for over an hour before igniting. Luckily, he was held up for awhile before he could leave the area or he probably wouldn't have noticed it. That could have been disastrous, blowing out embers on the county road and highway.

I fear this is going to be a problem all summer long and contractors and employees should take extra measures to be ready for it.



HIGHLAND LOGGING INC., owned by *Alex and Sally Barnhart*, have dealt with a machine on fire before and have come up with a strategy of how to deal with fire prevention.

They have combined together a 500-gallon water fire pumper, and a 4000 psi. hot water pressure washer to help keep his equipment clean or be used to fight fire.

Reading Terry's and Ken's articles, along with the very impressive effort of what Alex and Sally have done, I can't help stealing the title of Stan's article... **WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER...** I guess that goes for fighting fires too!!!

HELP US KEEP 'EM SMALL....SAFELY!

By Ken Homik

It seems like many parts of the state have gone straight from break-up season to fire season, and the weather forecaster's magic 8-Ball seems to keep coming up dry. If Mother Nature doesn't send rain soon, it could be a long, smoky summer.

When the fire guys and gals need help, the loggers will be there to cut the trees and push the dirt. All fires are different, but one thing is always the same: ***Safety in the Woods is Always the Top Priority.***

There are a few things you loggers should be aware of that will make working with the fire folks a bit easier, especially during the "initial attack" of the fire.

When the woods are burning, there are a whole lot of safety hazards to be aware of; the most obvious being entrapment by running fires. **LCES** is key to safety for all firefighters. **LCES** stands for:

LOOKOUTS – *Someone to keep eyes on the fire.*

COMMUNICATIONS – *So the lookout can tell you if things are going south.*

ESCAPE ROUTES – *So you can get out of the way if the fire is coming.*

SAFETY ZONES – *So you have a place to figure out Plan B.*

These four elements are interconnected and form a safety system used by firefighters to protect themselves. This safety procedure is put in place ***before*** fighting the fire. When you go from logger to firefighter, you need to know and plan for these things too!

The head honcho, or Incident Commander (IC) of the fire will develop a plan, and you need to know how you fit in. Typically, a firefighter "equipment boss" will be assigned to work with you, so you can focus on running equipment while they watch out for your safety and let you know if the plan changes. They will also provide you some basic fire gear, including the yellow and green Nomex and a fire shelter, at the minimum.

The sooner you and the fire folks get on the same page, the sooner we can get to putting the fire out.

Different agencies have different safety training requirements once fires get big and go into "extended attack," so be flexible. The Idaho Department of Lands and the two Timber Protection Associations (CPTPA and SITPA) do their best to hit 'em hard and keep 'em small. Loggers are our "traditional cooperators", and we need to work together to keep the woods green. Thanks in advance for your help!

(Ken works for the Idaho Department of Lands and is the Fire Warden for the Kootenai Valley Forest Protective District. Ken, along with many others from around the state that are in the fire fighting business, have always been very vocal about how important the logging industry is when it comes to that "first attack" on a new fire. There has always been a conversation about how important it is for the firefighters to know how to safely work around the loggers and their logging equipment. Hopefully articles such as Ken's will encourage the logging industry and the fire fighting agencies to keep passing this valuable information back and forth. Galen)

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

PRST-STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 3
KAMIAH ID



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.

Call (208) 553 6207 or reach us online:

galen.hamilton@dbs.idaho.gov or

Idaho Logging Safety News, Division of Building Safety

dbs.idaho.gov

Log Safe