

# Idaho Logging Safety News

Volume 35 Number 1

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Brad Little , Governor

Russell Barron, Administrator



Terry Waddell (above left) and Robbie Fritsche (above right) have some very compelling personal stories to tell. This fall they let us film them to be able to share at the first aid classes. Thanks guys! Plan to attend the 2024 edition of the Loggers First Aid Training. Class schedule is on page 3. You need to register ahead of time to be sure we save you a seat.

We get questions all the time about who needs to attend the annual first aid training, so lets take a look at what the law is: Idaho Minimum Safety Standards and Practices for Logging page 17 section 4: First Aid Training. 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. We make it as easy as possible for you to meet this requirement. Get signed up and we will see you at the classes.

# Tethering

By Wayne Lynn



Currently we have at least 23 tether machines operating in Idaho, and the number continues to rise. These systems allow operators to safely log steep slopes with the protection of purpose-built machines. Tethered operations removed loggers, primarily hand fallers and choker setters, from exposure to the hazards in these jobs and get the wood to the landing with the operator safely protected inside a cab. Yes, a few machines have tipped over but so far, we are not aware of any serious injuries here in Idaho.

Manufacturers have designed and tested these systems with safety devices and procedures that provide safety for the operator. It is essential that operators follow all of the manufacturer's recommendations, specifications, and limitations. However, I am concerned things are beginning to slip. We are seeing operators not using all the safety equipment, such as placing the deadman out as pictured above. It only takes a few seconds and could save a life. Manufacturers also specify a maximum angle when pulling against the machine. Don't exceed this. It is better to move the machine and stay in lead, rather than tipping it over or the machine tethered to it.

There are required daily inspections on the equipment as well as inspections at the start of each job and monthly thereafter. These inspections are important for the operator to ensure the equipment is in safe working condition and they need to be documented. A written operating plan is also required as detailed in Section 703 of the Idaho Minimum Safety Standards and Practices for Logging. Many of you operators have checklists that help you fulfill these requirements. There is a purpose for all of this. Please find the time and don't short-cut safety.

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## 2024 LOGGER FIRST AID AND SAFETY TRAINING

Offered by the Idaho State Logging Safety Program and the Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho

LOCATION	DATE 2024	DAY	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	ADDRESS
Coeur d'Alene	March 5	Tuesday	AM	PM	ALC Office, 10589 S. Hwy 95
Princeton	March 6	Wednesday	AM	PM	Palouse River Community Center, 3487 Hwy 6
Orofino	March 7	Thursday	AM	PM	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
St. Maries	March 12	Tuesday	AM	PM	Elks Lodge #1418, 628 Main
Pierce	March 13	Wednesday	AM Only		Pierce Community Center, 105 E. Carle St.
Grangeville	March 14	Thursday	AM	Tena- tive	Elks Lodge #1825, 111 S. Meadow
McCall	March 19	Tuesday	AM Only		Idaho First Bank , 475 Deinhard Lane
Lewiston	March 20	Wednesday	AM	Tena- tive	Elks Lodge #896, 3444 Country Club Drive
Bonnars Ferry	March 21	Thursday	AM	PM	Kootenai River Inn, 7169 Plaza St. <span style="float: right;">Page 3</span>
Ponderay	March 26	Tuesday	AM	PM	Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Way, Suite E
St. Maries	March 27	Wednesday	AM	PM	Elks Lodge, 628 Main
Moscow	March 28	Thursday	AM Only		Best Western Plus University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd.
Emmett	April 2	Tuesday	AM Only		Emmett Nazarene Church, 1144 N. Washington
Orofino	April 9	Tuesday	AM	PM	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
Coeur d'Alene	April 10	Wednesday	AM	PM	ALC Office, 10589 S. Hwy 95

***Pre-registration is necessary*** for attendance at the 2024 Logging First Aid and Safety Training Classes by contacting Jolene or Julie at the ALC Office. You can either call 208-667-6473 or email [jolene@idahologgers.com](mailto:jolene@idahologgers.com) or [julie@idahologgers.com](mailto:julie@idahologgers.com) for a direct link for registration.

### LEAP Update dates & locations in 2024

Lewiston – March 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Coeur d'Alene – March 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Bonnars Ferry – March 7<sup>th</sup>

## ZBR?

Idaho is committed to common sense regulation and you have an opportunity to give your input on the rules that affect the logging industry.

### **Zero-Based Regulation – What is it and how can you participate?**

As some of you may know, the Logging Safety Program will be going through Zero-Based Regulation (ZBR) this year.

***What is ZBR?*** Under Executive Order 2020-01, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing is working to prevent the accumulation of costly, ineffective, and outdated regulations and reduce regulatory burden to achieve a more efficient operation of government. For that to happen the Division will be working closely with the logging industry this spring to ensure the rules surrounding our safety standards are intentional, current, and keep loggers safe while not hindering commerce.

***How can I participate in the process?*** Stakeholder participation can happen a variety of ways:

1. Stakeholder meetings, such as the Spring ALC meeting, are a great opportunity begin reviewing the rules and sharing your suggestions, questions, or concerns.
2. Verbal comments, which can be provided in-person or virtually, allow speakers to talk directly with DOPL staff.
3. Written comments, which can be submitted informally at any time or formally through a public comment period, help ensure DOPL staff have a clear understanding of exactly what your edits or suggestions.

***When will the meetings be held?*** There will be more details soon, including updates to our website and e-mails to our logging community that include meeting dates, times, and locations.

In the meantime, the current rules can be found here: <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/24/243980.pdf>

Please reach out to Stan Leach, [stan.leach@dopl.idaho.gov](mailto:stan.leach@dopl.idaho.gov), 208-512-2354 or Amy Lorenzo, [amy.lorenzo@dopl.idaho.gov](mailto:amy.lorenzo@dopl.idaho.gov) with any questions or for more information.

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## Loggers to the Rescue!!



Craig Sanderson, co-owner of Cutting Edge Timber Harvesting, shared this photo of a young bull moose that got stuck overnight in one of their decks on a job near Fernwood. After finding the moose, Craig had a couple of crew members come down with a choker that they attached to the grapple on his shovel buncher to carefully separate the trees, freeing its leg. Once free, the poor guy just laid there probably exhausted from struggling to get loose. With a little encouragement from the crew, the bull eventually got up and went about his way. Thanks guys!

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### The Logging Safety Crew

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## Blind Spot

By Stan Leach

Unfortunately, we have had a few truck driver accidents this year during the loading process. I try to talk to every driver and loader operator about these to get them to think about the risks. Running behind the cab guard to get your wrappers out or pull your bunk pin may seem like it would save time but it isn't worth the risk.

Several drivers I spoke with this season shared stories of logs sliding out of the grapple or off the load while they were being loaded. Ice, mud, steep roads, and slick logs with the bark gone can all contribute to this problem. One driver who actually trains new drivers in the woods told me about a near miss.

He was working with a trainee showing him the ropes. They had the trailer down and hooked up and had moved up near the front bumper. They were discussing the safe positions to be in while being loaded. The loader had a bunk lay on and was putting on a grapple full of short logs. As he swung towards the load, one log squirted out of the grapple. It slid ahead on the bunk logs and tipped over, falling between the load and the cab guard. The trainer said that certainly re-enforced the point about being in a safe position in front of the cab guard.

One of the loader operators I spoke with, who has been loading for years, said he doesn't think a lot of people realize that there is a significant blind spot for the operator. Depending on the boom position up and down and which side of the cab it is on, there is a fair amount of area that the operator cannot see. Each time he swings around to get another grapple full of logs, he may not be able to see the load or anything close to it until he is directly facing it. If he sees a driver back along the load at the last second and stops quickly, the momentum may carry the end of the logs off the heel rack allowing the front end to drop. He said that as you build the load up you lose more visibility around the load. There was an accident he told me about where a new driver to the string was used to throwing his wrappers from the passenger side of the load. He had collected his wrappers and went back along that off-side to place them ahead of time. The loader operator was unaware of this and was busy trying to roll a curved log over to fit in a wrinkle on top. The log slipped out of the grapple, falling down the off-side, striking the driver. The operator, still unaware, couldn't see the log but knew it was on the ground, so he flopped his grapple on its edge and slid it towards the load and captured the log. He didn't know anything was wrong until he finished loading and got off to paint the load.

A little bit of communication between driver and operator can prevent an accident in the case that you have to go behind the cab guard for some reason. In most instances, you can wait till he is finished loading or needs to pull ahead to pull that bunk pin or place the ticket. Stay in front of the cab guard, stay out of the danger zone, and remember the operator has a blind spot. If he is not looking directly at you, he probably can't see you.

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A few simple changes in our behavior could prevent a lot of the driver struck by log accidents. Thank you to all that shared their stories with me this season. Be safe out there.

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## Cable Cutter Safety

By Kelly Waalkens

I asked several loggers what some of the most dangerous things are that we do. Unfortunately, there seem to be several. What surprised me was how often using cable cutters has been mentioned. This wonderful, useful tool has been the cause of countless eye injuries over the years. If you've ever had to use a cable cutter, one of the first things you notice is after the 1st hit with the hammer, quite often the thing bounces resulting in the blade not being in the original groove. If you strike it again, little pieces of shrapnel from hell, go flying at about the speed of light. These little fragments, if they hit your skin, will probably cause some minor discomfort. (Hitting your thumb with a hammer is also defined as minor discomfort.) Unfortunately, if they hit you or someone else in the eye, it will probably end up in a trip to the ER. The blades themselves can also break, sending larger fragments at about the same speed. Of course, we all know that we work in an almost perfect environment almost all the time. We place the cutter on a rock-solid surface because it's always available. (Okay, I'll stop being sarcastic.) Now that you have the cutter set up on as solid of surface as you can, you want to be sure you are wearing safety glasses and be sure that the exposed blade is facing away from everyone. A few powerful blows and wa-la the cable is safely cut. In almost every incident that I have been told about, being in a hurry and just not taking that few seconds of time to do it safe, is the main contributing factor. The result is a lot of time and money lost. (As I was writing this article, I learned about a logger who has an eye injury from a cable cutting incident in a nearby state. He has already missed almost one week of work and may miss more.) So please take the time to be safe!

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## *The Idaho Logging Safety News*

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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Log Safe For You And Your Family