

Idaho Logging Safety Newsletter

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Brad Little, Governor

Russell S. Barron, Administrator



Matt Mitchell (left) and Tony Bowles (right) of Bowles and Son Logging LLC recently helped us film a new segment for the first aid class. Be sure to attend, the class schedule is inside this issue (see pages 6 & 7), so you can check out their acting abilities.

State Communications Needs Your Support

The State Communications (State Comm.) team, which plays a vital role in facilitating emergency rescues for Idaho's logging industry, relies on your cooperation to keep their system efficient and effective. Many of you have already taken the proactive step of pre-registering your job locations with State Comm. – excellent work! This simple yet crucial process provides multiple benefits, such as verifying the accuracy of your coordinates. For instance, a recent case involved a contractor who submitted emergency rescue information, including a helipad location. Upon review, State Comm. noticed the coordinates provided were mistakenly in Utah. Thanks to their prompt feedback, the contractor corrected the error, ensuring the emergency plan included the correct location. This proactive approach resolved a potential issue before it became an emergency, which is exactly how the system is designed to function. Since we want State Comm to run efficiently, it's important that we give them accurate information. One critical way to do this is by periodically updating them on the status of your projects. We recommend contacting State Comm. once or twice a year via phone or email to inform them about completed job sites. This helps maintain an accurate and manageable database. Imagine the challenges they face sorting through dozens of emergency plans to locate one relevant job site. We can significantly streamline their work during critical situations by keeping them informed. The dynamic nature of our industry – whether due to smaller job sizes or faster wood movement – often results in multiple projects being completed within a year. This can lead to an accumulation of outdated emergency plans if we don't take the initiative to update State Comm. regularly.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the State Comm. response system supporting our industry. By ensuring that we provide accurate and up-to-date information, we can strengthen this partnership and continue to benefit from their exceptional service. Let's do our part to support them as much as they support us.

Pole Rules Update

By Stan Leach

I attended the recent Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho, Safety Conference in Moscow in early November. It was a great event with several engaging speakers. I appreciate the ALC putting it on. Trucking rules, safe driving tips, new hard hat technology, and an update on the pole hauling rules were all covered that day.

Unfortunately, we have had several pole trucks versus private vehicle interactions this year. It is essential that we understand the rules for pole hauling, as the requirements have changed since we last reported on it in May. First, you are no longer required to have "OVERSIZE LOAD" signs on the front and rear of a pole load. Poles are considered an overlength load, not oversized. Loads that are over width still require the oversize load signs. Lights are required on the rear of the poles if the overhang exceeds the rear of the trailer by four feet or more. Lights will be red and can flash or be steadily burning. If the overhang is two feet wide or less, only one light is required at the end of the overhang. If the overhang is over two feet wide, two lights are required on the end of the overhang to show the width of the overhang.

Flags are also required on the ends of the poles that overhang more than four feet beyond the rear of the trailer. Only one flag is required if the overhang is less than two feet wide. If the overhang is over two feet wide, two flags are required to mark the width of the overhang. The flags can be red or orange and must be 18 inches by 18 inches.

It All Starts at The Top ... (Continued)

By Steve Gibson

Newer Safety Helmets: Are they better at protection than the traditional hard hat?

Times are changing, that we know for sure. It's never easy to give up using a long-time hard hat that could perhaps tell too many stories, including a few close calls, slips, and falls. Hard hats have leaped forward in recent years, and it's time to consider newer hard hat styles that can offer you better protection day to day.

The new safety helmets fit like the sports helmets used in climbing and cycling, providing workers with enhanced comfort. Safety helmets use a suspension system, allowing the individual's head to rest on a comfort pad. Hard hats use a webbed ribbon-style suspension system that does not necessarily prevent them from falling off the head during a slip, a fall, or an initial impact from the side. Some have a foam type of liner, and others have a newer, advanced drinking straw-like appearance to help when a helmet receives an impact. Most have a ratchet knob tightening system to aid in a good and secure fit. Although wearing a chin strap might seem awkward at times, surely it will help keep a safety helmet on your head, especially when working on the ground and trying to get in the clear quickly or when climbing in and out of a machine. Consider searching online for "hard hat test video" to learn more. I encourage you to consider making a positive change in the New Year ahead and invest in yourself and your crew's safety.

We are working to put together a separate sheet for the job-specific training that would cover pole hauling. Please let me know if you have ideas about what information that sheet should have. This is a good way to pass your experience to anyone looking to haul poles. My contact info is Stan Leach 208-512-2354, stan.leach@dopl.idaho.gov, or you can talk to the Idaho Logging Safety person in your area.



Load Safety

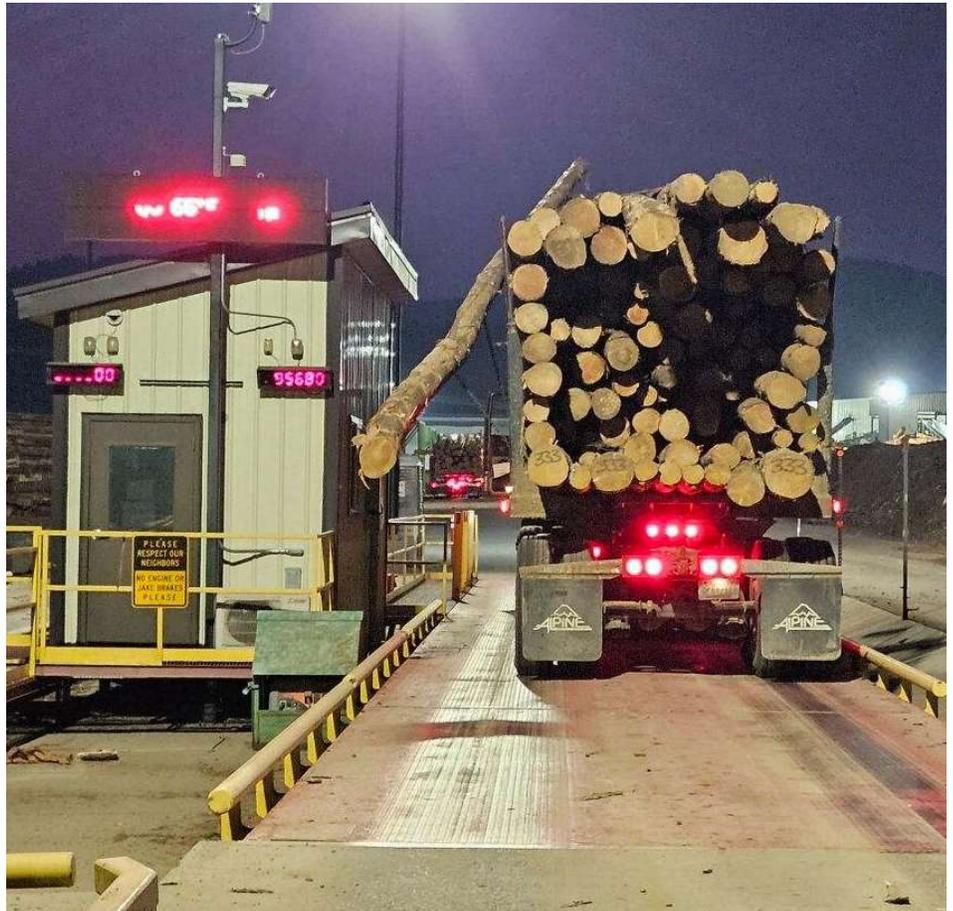
By Kelly Waalkens

I often get asked, "Why do we have so many regulations?" Below is a picture that may help to explain. Now I realize that honest mistakes are made and that nobody's perfect. Another thing I have come to realize is that we seem to have that one percent who don't seem to care, taking unnecessary chances and putting themselves and others at risk.

The problem is those who take chances end up costing everyone. The Idaho minimum safety practices for Logging states that any logs over 26 feet in length require three wrappers and must be placed in positions that effectively secure the load. (See figure 501.10.b. on page 58 of Idaho Minimum Safety Standards for Logging). This requirement was not met on this load pictured. It is the responsibility of the driver to make sure the wrappers are used accurately. Another issue with this load is that logs need to be appropriately layered in bunks to stabilize the load without the aid of binders.

(Note: Binders are still required)
All but one log looks stable on this load, but that one log could have been an absolute disaster. Who is responsible, the loader operator and the truck driver?

Who can be named in a lawsuit had this caused an accident? Virtually every contractor or subcontractor involved (owner of the truck/driver, owner of the loader/operator) and sometimes even property owners. The cost of these lawsuits is passed down to every contractor. Let's work together to help prevent accidents and take no chances.



Scale Pad Bolts -- Messages Received

By Stan Leach

In the August newsletter I asked for your input on problems we are having with broken scale pad bolts. I received almost a dozen calls from folks that are hauling logs daily. There wasn't complete agreement amongst all the respondents, but three possible causes were identified.

1. Poor bolt quality – two people felt that this was a contributing factor
2. Mag and salt on the roads – four of you said that the salt and mag on the roads is leading to corrosion and premature failure of the bolts. They reported seeing the pitting when taking the bolts out to check their condition.
3. Improper bolt installation – The scale pad bolts have some hefty torque specs. 1000 - 1400 ft lbs. for 1 1/8-inch grade 8 bolts and 1450 – 1780 ft lbs. for 1 1/4 inch grade 8 bolts are required to fully tighten them. These numbers are out of a Vulcan Scales technical bulletin, be sure to check your manufacturers, recommendation for torque specs for whatever brand you have. If not fully tightened, they can break. You can't get them that tight with a 3/4 rattle gun or a ratchet unless it has an eight-foot extension on it and two guys pulling. Three people mentioned this.

After we brought this up, I have talked to a few of you who found broken bolts when thumping on them to check or taking them out as a normal maintenance item. Good job, way better to find these and prevent a possible accident than to wish you would have checked them before your truck was on its side. Thanks to all who provided input.

2025 LOGGER FIRST AID AND SAFETY TRAINING

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

The following classes have been scheduled for the annual logging first aid and safety training. Please notify your entire crew (and please have them encourage their spouses) to attend this valuable class.

OSHA and the State of Idaho Logging Safety regulations require that all workers in the woods participate in logger first aid and logging safety training every year.

This class is also a required component of the Idaho Pro-Logger continuing education program as well.

Check in for morning classes start 7:30 a.m. The morning logging first aid and safety training starts at 8:00 a.m. and finishes at noon. Check in for the afternoon classes start at 12:30 p.m., and the afternoon class starts at 1:00 p.m. and finishes at 5:00 p.m.

If you arrive later than fifteen (15) minutes after class starts, you are welcome to stay but you will not be issued credit or a certificate of completion. Also, if you do not pick up your certificate at the end of class you will not be listed as completing the class.

Pre-registration is necessary for attendance at the 2025 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 or julie@idahologgers.com for a direct link for registration after November 1st

(Please see the next page for the schedule)

2025 LOGGER FIRST AID AND SAFETY TRAINING SCHEDULE

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

LOCATION	DATE 2025	DAY	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	ADDRESS
Coeur d'Alene	March 4	Tuesday	AM	PM	ALC Office, 10589 S. Hwy 95
Princeton	March 5	Wednesday	AM	PM	Palouse River Community Center, 3487 Hwy 6
Orofino	March 6	Thursday	AM	PM	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
St. Maries	March 11	Tuesday	AM	PM	Elks Lodge #1418, 628 Main
Pierce	March 12	Wednesday	AM Only		Pierce Community Center, 105 E. Carle St.
Grangeville	March 13	Thursday	AM Only		Elks Lodge #1825, 111 S. Meadow
McCall	March 18	Tuesday	AM Only		Idaho First Bank, 475 Deinhard Lane
Lewiston	March 19	Wednesday	AM	PM	Elks Lodge #896, 3444 Country Club Drive
Bonnars Ferry	March 20	Thursday	AM	PM	Kootenai River Inn, 7169 Plaza St.
Ponderay	March 25	Tuesday	AM	PM	Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Way, Suite E
St. Maries	March 26	Wednesday	AM	PM	Elks Lodge, 628 Main
Moscow	March 27	Thursday	AM	PM	Best Western Plus University Inn, 1516 Pullman Rd.
Emmett	April 1	Tuesday	AM Only		Emmett Nazarene Church, 1144 N. Washington
Orofino	April 8	Tuesday	AM	PM	Best Western Lodge at Rivers Edge, 615 Main
Kamiah*	April 9	Wednesday	AM Only		American Legion Post #75, 618 Main St
Coeur d'Alene	April 10	Thursday	AM	PM	ALC Office, 10589 S. Hwy 95
					*Class will be presented in Spanish ONLY

Huh? Say Again. What?

By: Wayne Lynn



When I started logging on a yarder crew, I was told never to use a chainsaw without hearing protection. While all PPE is essential, running a saw even for a couple of minutes causes a small amount of hearing loss each time. The noise level for chainsaws typically used in logging operations ranges from 100 to 120 decibels (dB). The louder the noise level is above 85 dB, the shorter the exposure is before hearing loss can occur. A single noise level at or above 120 dB can cause immediate and permanent hearing loss. Bumping a few knots, bucking a log, or notching a stump without adequate hearing protection can cause hearing loss. It's not just chainsaws; equipment and shop tools can also damage your hearing.

The OSHA standard for noise exposure is a Time Weighted Average (TWA) for a typical eight-hour workday. If the TWA is above 85 dB, employees are required to wear hearing protection and have a baseline audiogram and annual audiograms. Audiograms are required even if employees wear hearing protection. The TWA can be determined by a device called a dosimeter that records noise levels. A person wears it or puts it in the machine with them, and it records for an hour. The results are then expanded and averaged over an eight-hour day. The loggers I have done these for don't find it inconvenient.

I have been asked about employees who damage their hearing while not at work (gunshots, loud music, dirt bikes, etc.). This is not a contractor's responsibility; the dosimeter test results can support your case. If an employee is exposed to noise levels below 85 dB while at work, hearing loss is most likely from other exposure. We at Idaho Logging Safety will happily perform these dosimeter tests for contractors and provide the results. Please let us know if you are interested.

The COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 has ended the mobile hearing testing that used to be common, but there are places throughout the State that still perform audiograms. Spring breakup is a good time to schedule these. Hearing loss can be prevented. Even if you have lost some, you can preserve what you still have. Don't let hearing loss affect your or your employees' quality of life.



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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Call (208) 512-2354 or reach us online:
stan.leach@dopl.idaho.gov

LOG SAFE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

