

RATIONALE

Work in factories and at construction sites takes place in areas that can be controlled or modified to facilitate safety.

Logging is different. The faller may be the first person at a location and be the first to see a particular hazardous situation. Loggers must be attentive at all times because their working conditions demand that they alone assess and control the situation. They must be aware of weather, wind, rain, snow or cold which bring their own hazards. They must understand the terrain as trees can roll on hillsides, and skidders may upset on uneven ground or stumps.

Trees themselves contain hazards: snags, dry limbs, hang-ups, bound trees and many more waiting for the unwary logger. Skill, attention and preparation are needed at all times.

Timber harvesting is a potentially hazardous occupation. Workers and employers in Newfoundland & Labrador have responsibilities under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations. This publication outlines some of these responsibilities as well as industry standards designed to promote safety in the forest.



PREPARATION

Careful planning and preparation improve safety and productivity. Before operations start all workers must:

- **Be trained** to use chainsaws and other equipment correctly and safely.
- **Wear safety knee patches:** for all logging workers operating power saws, or using pulp hooks or axes.
- **Use protective gloves or mitts:** for skidder operators, double palm leather. For fallers, ones containing a protective pad for the back of the hand is recommended.
- **Wear CSA approved safety boots or footwear** for logging. Industry standards state that a boot must have effective cut protection for the instep and sides of the foot.
- **Wear a CSA approved hard hat,** or equivalent. Fluorescent orange or other high visibility colour is recommended. Other high visibility clothing is available and fallers wearing it are more easily spotted at a distance.
- **Use a face screen** attached to the hard hat for face protection. Safety glasses or vented goggles for eye protection are also recommended.
- **Use approved** hearing protection when operating chainsaws or an open skidder.
- **Use chainsaws** equipped with a working chain brake or a bar and chain designed to reduce kickbacks. Industry standard requires all saws be equipped with an operational chain brake.
- **Make certain** that the saw chain stops when the engine idles. Engage the chain brake or stop the engine when walking with the chainsaw.
- **Be sure** that skidders and other mobile equipment are properly maintained and have roll-over protective structures which protect the operator.

CHAINSAW



Your chainsaw must have a functioning chain brake, a chain catcher, a functioning throttle safety latch and chain guard.

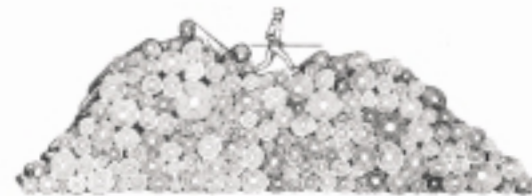
CHAINSAW STARTING

...recommended methods

GROUND START - for cold & warm saws

Place the chainsaw on the ground. With one hand on the front handle, one foot holding down the rear handle and starting with the other hand.

NOTE: When starting a power saw a worker shall place it on the surface on which he or she is standing and not against a part of his or her body.



WORKING ALONE

Because of the hazards inherent in conventional logging any worker employed under conditions where he or she might not be able to secure assistance in case of injury, the employer must provide a means of checking the well-being of the worker at intervals which under circumstances provide adequate protection.

SAFE FELLING

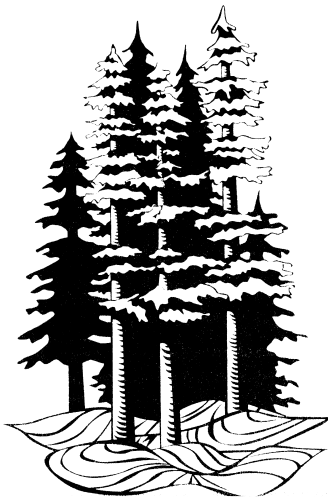
Felling is a demanding job both physically and mentally. It requires knowledge of and strict adherence to safe practices and regulations to ensure personal safety, as well as the safety of others working in the area. With the aim of preventing accidents, all fallers must be sure to:

- **Remove trees** that would pose a risk before starting felling operations. This includes snags, leaners, hang-ups, spring poles, etc.
- **Keep both hands** on the saw at all times when felling, limbing or bucking.
- **Keep no less than 30.48 meters** from another worker who is felling other trees.
- **Prepare and use** an escape route during the felling of each tree.
- **Clear brush** and obstructions from around the base of the tree before starting to cut.
- **Use undercuts** and backcuts separated by a strip of hinge wood to control the fall of trees; 15 cm (6") or more in diameter is recommended. For trees over 30 cm (12"), the use of wedges is recommended.
- **Use notches** or undercuts which are at least $\frac{1}{3}$ and less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of the tree.
- **Remove all** wood from the notch before the backcut is made.
- **Make the backcut** at least 2.5 cm (1") above the undercut but not more than 10 cm (4").
- **Fall trees** in an orderly pattern, all in one direction as much as practical or possible to facilitate skidding.
- **At no time** leave a tree partially cut and standing.
- **Ensure that all** hang-ups are felled immediately by a skidder, or using other equipment designed for this purpose.
- **Maintain, operate and carry** chainsaws in a safe manner to prevent injury.
- **Be cautious** when working, and watch carefully for dry or rotten tops and limbs that may fall.

FIRE

The logger has a role to play in the prevention of fires as their livelihood depends on the timber resource. With this in mind, the following are some rules that must be followed during the fire season.

- **Always clear** the area of dry leaves, twigs and other flammable material when you fuel and service your saw.
- **Allow the saw** to cool before refueling.
- **Never smoke** while working or walking.
- **See that the spark** arrester on your saw is in place.
- **Carry a small** hand extinguisher with you on hot, dry days.
- **Ensure that other** fire-fighting equipment is available on site.
- **Ensure you have** a fire plan and know what to do if a fire breaks out.



SAFE



SKIDDING

Skidding operations can easily result in serious injury if not carried out safely. Newfoundland Occupational Health and Safety Regulations require that:

- **Power skidders** and other motor vehicles and equipment are operated in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
- **Power skidders** are protected at the back of the cab to safeguard against cable snap back.
- **Controls are manipulated** from the operator's seat only unless remote controls are used or the worker is letting out cable.
- **Seat belts**, where practicable, are used on skidders and other motor vehicles and equipment.
- **Workers** are not permitted to ride on logs, pulpwood or other material loaded or drawn by skidders and other motor vehicles and equipment.
- **Workers** are not permitted to ride on skidders and other motor vehicles and equipment except in a seat provided for that purpose.

EMERGENCIES

Despite our best efforts things sometimes go wrong. When this happens we must have plans in place and supplies ready to deal with the results. Communications are vital in emergency situations as is proper transportation. Listed below are some plans and supplies that need to be in place if an accident occurs.

- **AN EMERGENCY PLAN** - written instructions on what to do and who to call
- **EMERGENCY NUMBERS** - posted or kept where everyone can find immediately any numbers that might be needed quickly, such as hospital, police, supervisors, etc.
- **COMMUNICATION** is required for any worker or crew in a remote worksite and in the case of a serious accident or emergency - a good system can save a life. Various radios or portable phones are available. Whichever is chosen, ensure it works where it is needed and everyone is trained in its use. Also, be certain that it stays on site at all times.
- **FIRST AID TRAINING** - Every crew requires at least one person trained in first aid. Regulations define how many and how much training is required.
- **FIRST AID KITS** - every crew must have one on site. Regulations outline minimum standards.
- **A STRETCHER** suitable for transporting an injured worker must be available at all worksites.

Workplace Health, Safety & Compensation Commission would like to acknowledge

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CONVENTIONAL LOGGING SAFETY IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Workplace Health, Safety & Compensation Commission

Newfoundland & Labrador Forestry Training Association

Occupational Health and Safety, Department of Environment and Labour

This publication outlines the laws and standards which will assist workers to work safely in conventional logging. It is not intended to replace, but supplement, the Newfoundland Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations. For the entire regulations regarding logging see the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations section 183-187.

