

Safety Briefing for January 2020

Personal Protective Equipment for Cold Weather

Safety Tips

Employers' and supervisors should review cold-weather safety procedures with their employees before and throughout the winter months. Often workers put themselves in danger when they forget to take the necessary precautions needed to work in cold weather. If supervisors remind employees about the cold, they are more likely to think about it and take appropriate action.

The personal protective equipment (PPE) standard for general industry describes employers' obligation to provide protection for virtually all occupational hazards, including temperature extremes. When working in cold weather, making sure you wear good protective clothing is the best way to help guarantee your safety.

Brave the Elements Safely

- ❑ **Follow body basics.** One of the secrets to winter warmth is layering. Thermal long underwear provides a snug-fitting layer against the skin and wicks perspiration away from it. For outerwear, wind and moisture resistance are essential for workers' comfort. Jackets made with a Gore-Tex shell provide excellent protection from cold weather, as well as comfort.
- ❑ **Start at the bottom.** For feet, wool or wool blend socks are better for warmth than cotton, and keep your feet drier. For particularly cold conditions, put wool socks over a lightweight fabric such as polypropylene.

Heavy-duty insulated boots are a good bet for the cold. Some are reinforced with steel toes for work use, and many styles contain felt liners that you can pull out to dry. Waterproof boots can prevent frostbite in wet conditions. However, in cold, dry conditions they can trap perspiration and increase the chance of injury.

- ❑ **Handy ways to combat cold.** Hands need as much protection as feet, even though the protection must occasionally come off during the course of work. Insulated leather gloves work gloves are both sturdy and warm. Also, "first-finger mitts", in which the index finger and thumb have their own openings but the remaining fingers are grouped together for warmth.
- ❑ **Face value.** The bitter cold on an employee's face and neck can be a big safety concern. For neckwear, choose chokers rather than scarves. Scarves can become entangled in equipment. A balaclava or partial face covering can keep sensitive noses and cheeks warm. Specially designed wind guards and facemask also provide good protection from the cold.
- ❑ **Top it off.** Finally, don't forget the hat. More body heat escapes through the head than anywhere else on the body. A hat that covers the ears or a combination of hat and headband will keep workers warm. Hats made of wool or synthetic material are the best.



Remember, there may be a trade-off between freedom of movement and safety. Convince workers that bundling up will actually help them perform better in the cold and help them stay warm.

For more information or assistance with workplace safety contact
Forestry Mutual Insurance Company at 800-849-7788

\$AFETY PAY\$
SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Employees present:

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Old Business – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

Accidents/Near Misses – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since last meeting.

Inspection Reports – Findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.

New Business – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new machinery procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____

Safety Briefing for Febraury 2020

Topic: Safety Around Warming Fires

Background: Over the last several years, we have experienced employees being burned because they threw fuel onto a fire. Unfortunately, burns can be the most difficult type of injury to heal. They are also some of the most painful and long-lasting visible reminders of a moment of carelessness. Since the cold weather is coming around again, here is a reminder of what can happen if you throw fuel into a fire.

We have had several logging crews start a fire in burn barrels or on the ground near the deck. In most cases, the time of day was early morning prior to daylight and it was cold enough that they needed to build a fire while they awaited the daylight.

During one incident, the wood was in the burn barrel and the fire was lit. One of the crew members got some fuel and threw it onto the fire. Unfortunately, it flashed back at him and burned him. The crew member sustained severe burns to the hand and face.

During another incident, two employees were injured pouring liquid onto a fire. Again, it was early morning, dark and cold. The first employee caught on fire when the fire flashed as he was pouring fuel onto the fire. The second individual was burned trying to extinguish the flames on the first employee. One employee suffered burns to 6% of his body but the other employee sustained burns to over 50% of his body.

UNSAFE ACTS & CONDITION:

1. Employee tried to help the fire along without knowing the hazards involved.
2. Flammable/combustible material was too close to the fire.
3. Employee did not know there was gasoline mixed in with the diesel on one incident.
4. New ultra low sulphur diesel has a flash point around 100 degrees. It is not the old style diesel anymore. It will ignite.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:

1. Always know the condition of the embers and materials you plan to burn.
2. Do not try to help a fire that has glowing embers in it.
3. Be aware that pressurized containers like soda or water bottles will burst when the heat expands the gases trapped inside them.
4. Do not attempt to use fluids to help the fire burn as you do not know what they contain.
5. It is better to be safe than burned – do not try to accelerate a fire with flammable or combustible liquids.

You must stop needless injuries that can kill you or scar you for the rest of your life. Never have an attitude that you will not be injured. DO NOT POUR FUEL ONTO A FIRE!!

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Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Safety Around Warming Fires

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Safety Briefing for March 2020

Topic: Following too Close

Introduction: Several accidents have occurred recently that have resulted in fatalities. Each accident was avoidable had the driver paid attention to the road conditions and kept proper following distances.

Scenario One: Two loaded log trucks from the same logging company were loaded with pulpwood with overhanging logs. The two drivers were taking their load to the same mill, so they traveled together. The weather was clear and sunny. This was their first load of the day.

The two trucks traveled for 20 plus miles from the jobsite and entered a small town. They had to slow down and shift lanes due to road construction. The first driver had downshifted and slowed to the 35 MPH speed limit. He then stopped for a red traffic light. However, the second driver failed to slow down and ran into the rear end of the first truck at approximately 45 MPH.

Several long logs from the first truck entered the engine compartment of the second tractor. One of the logs deflected toward the driver's side and entered the cab through the firewall. It penetrated the driver and continued out back window. He died instantly.

Scenario Two: Same situation, another day. Two truck drivers each driving a pulpwood load with a large amount of overhang. They traveled together to deliver their loads to the same mill.

The weather was overcast clouds but visibility was good. It appears that the weather did not contribute to this accident.

As they traveled, they kept in contact with each other by CB radio. The first driver would relay traffic information to the driver behind so they could avoid trouble/issues. They had traveled on a four-lane highway and as they approached the town, the lanes transitioned to a two-lane road. The first driver reported that as he slowed down because of a school bus. He reported a sudden jolt to his truck followed by a loud crashing noise. He exited the cab quickly and went to the rear of the truck.

He saw the second truck had hit his truck. The driver was dead. He was struck by logs that entered the cab. To make matters even worse, this was his father that drove the second truck. He does not know why his dad failed to slow down.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Avoid following too close.**
- **Keep safe distances to avoid this type of accidents.**
- **Distractions remove precious seconds needed to react.**
- **Reduce speed**
 - **as you enter construction zones or towns**
 - **to adjust to road or weather conditions**

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SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

TOPIC: Following too Close

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Safety Meeting for April 2020

Topic: Overhead Hazards

Introduction: **Did you know** a logger's vision and visibility are key factors to safety in the woods. Visibility in the logging woods is generally good from November to the end of March. The month of April brings a natural phenomena, "**leaf out.**" The deciduous forest blooms to new life with a fresh growth of new leaves. What was once a bright and open environment in the late fall and winter, with good visibility, has been transformed to a lush green environment with filtered light. As the forest rejuvenates itself, risk is formed by reduced visibility caused by the new canopy of leaves.

Background: This new canopy hides overhead hazards, or death from above. Broken limbs, vines, intertwined branches, and other hazards are now difficult to spot. These overhead hazards are the leading cause for catastrophic injury and death in the forest industry. They call hanging limbs widow makers for a reason. They are often missed due to the leaf coverage and as they fall, they can strike employees on the ground.

What must an employee know: Please take the time to brief your crew on overhead hazards and the reduced visibility caused by leaf out.

- Use approved personal protective equipment (PPE) for head protection.
- Look and scan at least 50 feet ahead on your ground path of travel.
- Look and scan at least 100 feet ahead for all overhead hazards.
- Don't place yourself under any object that can fall or move due to gravity.
- Maintain at least two tree lengths from all felling operations.
- Be visible; wear high visibility safety colors.
- Maintain communication with anyone in the work area. Verify their location with frequent eye contact.

In nearly every accident, it is the ground personnel who are most at risk from hazards from above. As a team, work together and stay focused. Take the time to look for overhead hazards, identify the hazard, tell everyone about it, and remove it or flag it to keep personnel away. Your proper decisions will result in a happy holiday season for all.

LOOK UP AND STAY ALIVE!

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SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

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Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Overhead Hazards

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Safety Briefing for May 2020

Topic: Driving Reminders for a Safe Trip

Background: Log and chip trucks travel on many different types of roads. The surface can be concrete, asphalt, crush and run, or dirt and gravel. As far as danger goes, each surface has hazards associated with them. Recent injuries have occurred because truck drivers, failed to account for the conditions that traffic presented or the driving habits of those around you. Employers should make employees aware of the following:

Following other log trucks or chip vans

Several recent accidents highlight the need for drivers of log trucks or chip vans to be aware that following too close to log trucks with overhanging logs is dangerous and has proven fatal in two recent incidents.

- Never follow too close to a truck/trailer combination with overhanging logs.
- Stay back at the recommended following distance (2 to 3 second rule).
- Use flagging and/or flashing strobe lights according to your state's requirements.

Proper procedures to overtake and pass long tractor/trailers

- Make sure you are in a passing zone.
- As you cross the center line be prepared for oncoming traffic at side roads or hidden hills.
- Watch for soft shoulders, guide posts and wildlife as you pass.
- Use enough speed to overtake the vehicle without exceeding the speed limit - changing down a gear may give you enough engine power to get past.
- Maintain a safe speed you do not have to hard brake after you reenter the lane.
- Do not pass a turning vehicle at an intersection unless it is safe to do so.

Tail Swing

An ever-increasing number of accidents have occurred that involve tail swing. Tail swing almost always occurs on the blind side of the rig. For drivers, it is important to remember that anything beyond the rear axle (the fulcrum point) will pivot as you turn. Watch out for oncoming traffic, and traffic to the left or right. A good sense of space/distance awareness is essential. Property damage is normally the major result of tail swing but injuries and fatalities have occurred in vehicles around the log truck.

- Do not take turns with excessive speed as it exaggerates the tail swing.
- Do not rely on mirrors as you develop a blind spot during the turn.
- Remember the extreme rear of the load will move horizontally and will collide with vehicles in adjoining lanes of traffic.
- Make sure logs are secured on the rear bunk to prevent them from falling in case you impact a bus, car, other truck or a wall. Fatalities have occurred when the load is not secured.

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Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Driving Reminders for a Safe Trip

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Safety Meeting For June 2020

Topic: Distracted Driving

Introduction: I Bet You Didn't Know that according to the latest report from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration distracted driving crashes killed more than 5,400 people and an additional 448,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes reported to have involved distracted driving.

Background: Actions that remove your focus from the task at hand – DRIVING – can change your life forever. One split second and you can receive minor injuries, or you can be paralyzed, or worse, you can die as a result of any action that takes away your focus on driving. Here are some facts from the National Highway Safety Administration:

- Of those people killed in distracted-driving-related crashes, 995 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction (18% of fatalities in distraction-related crashes).
- Of those injured in distracted-driving-related crashes, 24,000 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction (5% of injured people in distraction-related crashes).
- Sixteen percent of fatal crashes involved reports of distracted driving.
- The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group – 16 percent of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving.
- Of those drivers involved in fatal crashes who were reportedly distracted, the 30- to 39-year-olds had the highest proportion of cell phone involvement.

What employees must know:

- Follow your employer's policies and procedures that prohibit texting while driving.
- Reaction time is delayed for a driver that talks on a cell phone as much as it is for a driver who is legally drunk.
- Drivers who text take their eyes off the road 400% more than when they are not texting.
- More texting leads to more crashes. With each additional 1 million text messages, fatalities from distracted driving rose more than 75%.
- Reaching for the radio, eating food, drinking are all equivalent actions that remove your focus from driving.
- Pull over to a shoulder if you must talk or text.

OSHA encourages employers to declare their vehicles "text-free zones" and to emphasize that commitment to their workers, customers, and communities. Employers should :

- Establish work procedures and rules that do not make it necessary for workers to text while driving in order to carry out their duties.
- Set up clear procedures, times, and places for drivers' safe use of texting and other technologies for communicating with managers, customers, and others.
- Incorporate safe communications practices into worker orientation and training.
- Eliminate financial and other incentive systems that encourage workers to text.

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Safety Meeting for July 2020

TOPIC: New Employee Training

Introduction: I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW that one in eight employees are involved in some type of accident the first year on the job and national statistics show most occur within the first month.

Background: Confusion and stress accompany an employee during the first days of any job. These are the main reasons that they are twice as likely to have an accident as experienced workers. Lack of experience, a strong desire to please and hesitation to ask for help, all cause new employees to be involved in some type of accident the first year on the job and why the first month is the most critical.

These principals apply to experienced workers that move to a new position or task.

What must an employee know: The first few days on the job are an excellent opportunity to provide your employees with the information that will ensure their safety and shape their behavior and performance. Training that stresses safety has been determined to eliminate accidents and contribute to an accident free environment. We recommend covering but not limited to the following:

- ❑ The most important and most overlooked information is the company safety policy. Ensure your employees are aware of the policy and consequences for non-compliance.
- ❑ All employees' training should include an introduction to their new job site.
- ❑ Make sure your employees understand the hazards associated with the job (job safety analysis) they will be assigned.
- ❑ Demonstrate how attention to safety in their job relates to the overall function of the company. Include the relevant safety precautions in employee's job descriptions and give each new employee a copy as well as a copy of the company safety policy.
- ❑ Ensure **machinery lockout training** is provided and emphasize all the energy hazards required to place machinery in a "**zero energy**" condition prior to maintenance operations.
- ❑ Explain safety rules and emergency procedures. Point out the location of first-aid facilities.
- ❑ Explain how and when to use personal protective equipment and how to care for it.
- ❑ Inform new employees to report unsafe conditions to you, as well as any accidents, even if there are no serious injury.
- ❑ Stress the importance of good housekeeping to eliminate potential hazards.
- ❑ Monitor employee's progress often during the first months. Keep them involved in your safety program and as a new set of eyes, they may possibly point out additional hazards that might have been overlooked.

When you include safety training, a new employee's morale improves, and accident rates are decreased. Training that stresses employee safety sets the stage for new employees and can last throughout their career. It is an ideal opportunity to teach safe and productive work habits to all employees.

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SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

COMPANY NAME: _____

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Open Meeting & Present safety topic: New Employee Training

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Safety Meeting for August 2020

Topic: “**Three-Point Rule**” reduces risk of injury

Introduction: I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW that getting on and off equipment and vehicles accounts for 1 out of every 4 injuries to equipment operators or truck drivers. Some of these injuries have been quite severe. Too many times, a simple fall turns into a disabling injury involving knees, ankles and sometimes spine/back injuries.

Background: Studies of accidents reveal statistics shows employees are not using proper mount/dismount techniques from equipment. To avoid these types of injuries, it is important to understand the “Three Point Rule” which states quite simply, **AT-ALL-TIMES**, you **MUST** keep three points of contact with the ground or the equipment until you are stable.

What must an employee know: The biggest cause of falls from a vehicle, equipment or ladder is human error - failure to follow the “Three Point Rule.” It requires three of four points of contact to be maintained with the vehicle or ladder at-all-times – two hands and one foot, or both feet and one hand. This technique allows maximum stability and support and reduces the likelihood of slip and falls.

There are important steps that can be taken to prevent mounting/dismounting injuries with use of the Three Point Rule being most important. **An employer should do the following to ensure the safety of their employees:**

- Conduct safety meeting with employees about using the “Three Point Rule”.
- Evaluate trucks, logging equipment, and ladders for serviceability and safety.
- Provide additional steps, non-slip surfaces and hand holds where necessary.
- Maintain steps, contact surfaces and handholds in useable condition. Inspect frequently.
- Install warning decals or signs in the cab or on the door of trucks and h reminding workers to use 3-point contact.

Employees should do the following to reduce the risk of injury:

- Keep truck and equipment steps, ladders and surfaces free of debris.
- Don't use the doorframe or door edge as a handhold.
- Wear footwear with good support and slip resistance.
- Don't try to exit a vehicle with something in your hand.
- Descend slowly to avoid straining a muscle.
- Always mount or climb down while facing the truck or the equipment.
- Get a firm grip on rails or handles.
- Never Jump off from a step or ladder before you reach the bottom or surface

Remember these simple rules and you will have substantially reduced your chance of injury when getting on (or in) as well as off (or out) of a vehicle, equipment, and ladders.



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COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Open Meeting & Present safety topic: “Three-Point Rule” reduces risk of injury

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Safety Meeting for September 2020

TOPIC: Trip and Fall Hazards

Introduction: I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW that recently OSHA recorded over 1,000 workers that died on the job, with 335 or 32%, resulting from falls.

Background: Each year, falls consistently account for the greatest number of accidents and fatalities in the forestry and wood manufacturing industries and other industries as well. Events surrounding these types of accidents often involve a number of factors, including unstable work surfaces, misuse or lack of fall protection equipment, and human error. Studies have shown that the many deaths and injuries from falls can be prevented with the use of guardrails, fall arrest systems, safety nets, covers, and barrier guards.

What must an employee know: Serious and fatal injuries can result from falls. **As our workforce ages, precautions must be put in place to account for loss of agility.** Everyone must be alert to the hazards that can lead to tripping and in turn, cause falls. If hazards are discovered, they must be reported to the supervisor and immediate action must be taken to eliminate them.

The following hazards cause a majority of falls:

- ❑ Performing elevated maintenance without the use of proper fall protection. Always wear a personal fall arrest system that is properly fitted. Match the system to the particular work situation and keep the potential free fall distance to a minimum.
- ❑ Lumber, debris, slippery surfaces, and unorganized materials and equipment in the work area can cause serious trip and fall hazards. Good housekeeping practices can eliminate these hazards and reduce injuries.
- ❑ Stairways/stairwells can also be serious hazards. Always place handrails on stairs and stairwells. Most injuries in stairs occur due to failure to use the handrails. Also, never place or store materials or tools on stairways.
- ❑ Three points of contact are needed to safely enter or exit equipment, vehicles or platforms. This simple method if used, can reduce the majority of injuries from falling off equipment.
- ❑ Ladder misuse contributes to a large number of accidents and even deaths. Follow proper ladder procedures to reduce your chances:
 - Ladder rails and rungs must always be of the proper design, material and size. Ladders should never be used if the rails are cracked or the rungs are broken.
 - Ladders that lead to landings or walkways should extend at least 36 inches above the landing and must be securely fastened.
 - Improper placement of the ladder can result in a sudden shift. The base of the ladder should be set at a distance of one-fourth the height of the ladder away from the wall or structure.
 - Always use two hands when climbing a ladder. Carrying objects in one hand can cause a sudden fall. Place both hands on the side rails, or rungs.
 - Ascending or descending a ladder backwards is a sure way to head for trouble. Always face the ladder when climbing, descending or working on it. Remember, three points of contact!
- ❑ Many serious slips, trips and falls can occur while hurrying -- **WALK**, don't run.
- ❑ Management can do everything possible to provide safe working conditions, but your help is essential. Report any unsafe condition you discover to your supervisor immediately.

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Open Meeting & Present safety topic: Trip and Fall Hazards

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Safety Briefing for October 2020

Topics: Fourth Quarter Drill

Introduction: Many of us as teenagers grew up playing high school football. I still remember the dreaded fourth quarter drills. They were set-up to enhance our physical endurance and mental sharpness during the last quarter of the ball game. The grueling array of activities that was fondly called the fourth quarter drill was for our benefit.

Using logging and football when talking about the fourth quarter of the year is vital. You see, historically, insurance companies suffer some of their worst losses during the fourth quarter of the year. During the fourth quarter there are a lot of distractions that distracts your focus that is demanded while working in the woods. Activities such as hunting season, weather changes, and the holidays can make the mind wander, now throw into the equation shorter days. When the mind is not on the job, we have had catastrophic injuries occur. How can we turn this trend around? By being aware!! Pay attention to your surroundings during the fourth quarter. Remember, the logging crew is a team!

MANUAL FELLING

- **Be aware of all overhead hazards**
- **Be aware and use proper felling techniques**
- **Be aware, proper notching and hinge-wood are mandatory**
- **Be aware, maintain proper distance from other workers, 2 tree lengths**
- **Be aware, keep focused on the task at hand**

LIMBING and TOPPING

- **Be aware of all overhead hazards**
- **Be aware of tension wood, body placement is very important**
- **Be aware, use top-locks and limb-locks when tension is present**
- **Be aware, keep adequate distance from mobile logging equipment**
- **Be aware, keep focused on the task at hand**

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- **Be aware of all overhead hazards**
- **Be aware, use proper 3 points of contact while mounting and dismounting**
- **Be aware, use lock and tag out procedures while doing maintenance**
- **Be aware, keep and maintain proper working distance from all ground personnel**
- **Be aware, keep focused on the task at hand**

In each logging job classifications, you notice four similarities. Overhead hazards; proper working distances; and staying focused are huge when it comes to logging safety. I believe **AWARENESS** makes all the other things come together. Awareness and good work habits reduce risk. Let's use awareness for our fourth quarter drill. Victory in the logging woods is obtained by working safely and efficiently. Have a safe fourth quarter.

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Old Business – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

Accidents/Near Misses – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since last meeting. Brief summary of accident(s). Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.

Inspection Reports – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.

New Business – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new machinery procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____



Safety Briefing for November 2020

Topic: Chain Saw Safety

Introduction: Operating a chain saw is inherently hazardous. In the last several months, we have had an upswing in the number of employees that have been injured operating chainsaws. Potential injuries can be minimized by using proper personal protective equipment and safe operating procedures.

Before Starting a Chain Saw

- Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure that they are functioning properly and that they are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure that the chain is always sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.
- Start the saw on the ground or on another firm support. **Drop starting is never allowed.**
- Start the saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area, with the chain's brake engaged.

Fueling a Chain Saw

- Use approved containers for transporting fuel to the saw.
- Dispense fuel at least 10 feet away from any sources of ignition. **"No smoking"**.
- Use a funnel or a flexible hose when pouring fuel into the saw.
- Never attempt to fuel a running or HOT saw.

Chain Saw Safety

- Clear away dirt, debris, small tree limbs and rocks from the saw's chain path. Look for nails, spikes or other metal in the tree before cutting.
- Shut off the saw or engage its chain brake when carrying the saw on rough or uneven terrain.
- Use a thumb wrap to assist with controlling the saw in a kickback.
- Keep your hands on the saw's handles, and maintain secure footing while operating the saw.
- Proper personal protective equipment must be worn when operating the saw, which includes hand, foot, leg (saw chaps), eye, face, hearing and head protection.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing.
- Be careful that the trunk or tree limbs will not bind against the saw.
- Watch for branches under tension, they may spring out when cut. Use proper body placement!
- Chain saws must be equipped with a protective device that minimizes saw kickback.
- Be cautious of saw kick-back. To avoid kick-back, do not saw with the tip. If equipped, keep tip guard in place.

For more information or assistance with workplace safety contact Forestry Mutual Insurance Company at 800-849-7788

\$AFETY PAY\$

SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

TOPIC: Chain Saw Safety

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Employees present:

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Old Business – Status of any previous safety recommendations.

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MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____

Safety Briefing for December 2020

Topic: Truck Drivers

Background: As far as dangerous jobs go, what do you think are the most dangerous? Recently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provided data that was a surprise. Many individuals think that police officers, firefighters and construction workers have the most dangerous jobs. Along with that, most people usually do not consider truck drivers in that category. But the data shows that driving a truck is far riskier than you might think.

According to recently published data from the Federal Motor Carrier Services Administration (FMCSA):

- 25,598 fatal truck crashes have occurred over the past 5 years.
- One out of every six American workers killed on the job is a tractor-trailer truck driver.
- In 2019 alone, nationwide, 5,081 fatal truck crashes occurred, and 856 tractor-trailer truck drivers were killed.
- Tractor-trailer truck drivers are three times more likely than the typical American worker to have an injury or illness that required days off from work.” (BLS Report)

Truck drivers also have the highest number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses that require days off from work. In 2019, drivers ranked 6th among the top occupations. They follow close after police officers and sheriffs, firefighters, highway maintenance workers, correctional officers and nursing. Another way to look at this statistic is that truck drivers had nearly one out of every 20 injury and illness cases nationwide that needed time off work to recover.

What employees should know:

- Wear work boots with non-slip, grip soles to prevent slip injuries.
 - Do not wear smooth soled boots or shoes.
 - Do not wear flip flops or untied shoes as they can cause you to trip.
- Use **Three Points of Contact** while entering or exiting the cab or climbing on the tractor.
 - Use caution when ice, snow, mud, or rain is present.
 - Make sure your grip is firm and you do not carry items in your arms or hands.
- Be aware of other vehicles around you.
 - Always check side mirror before you make a wide turn.
 - Be cautious about **load swing** if any part of the load extends beyond the rear axles.
- Keep your speed under control for the conditions you encounter.
 - Slow down for curves and exit ramps.
 - Be aware of the high center of gravity with trailers loaded with logs (rollovers).
 - Keep safe following distances in case you must make an emergency stop.
 - Slow down when workers are in construction zones.
- Use turn signals to signal your intentions.
 - In accident reports it was noted that 86% of drivers failed to properly signal their turn.
 - Be aware of your blind spots! If you can't see a vehicle in your mirrors does not mean there is none in your blind area.
- Use caution when throwing binding straps or chains. Use an underhand toss to prevent injuries to your shoulder's rotator cuff.

DO NOT BECOME ONE OF THESE STATISTICS. DO YOUR PART AND ARRIVE ALIVE!!!

\$AFETY PAY\$

SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Open Meeting & Present safety topic: **Truck Drivers**

Employees present:

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