

\$AFETY SAVES\$

The start of the new logging season is finally in full swing and I'm certain the loggers are as happy as the Safety Rangers to be back in the woods. This year's spring training sessions were well attended with nearly 1,000 loggers attending First Aid/CPR. The majority of attendees use this class as a refresher, but there were some new faces this year, which is always great to see.

For those that have new employees coming out of breakup, a great resource is available to ensure your new employee is properly trained. Much of the following article comes from www.loggingsafety.org.

This is a great website for additional training information for both loggers and log haulers.

Nearly one half of all logging injuries occur to workers with less than one year on the job! This comprehensive, year-long safety training program is designed specifically for those workers!

This Safety Program:

- follows a structured format designed to develop a strong and lasting commitment to safety in each new worker, and to avoid injury during that critical first year of logging employment.
- is designed to be presented to the new employee by the logging business owner or crew foreman on a "one-to-one" basis throughout the first year of employment to demonstrate clearly the importance the employer places on safety.
- complies with all applicable OSHA Logging Safety Regulations.
- utilizes specified logging safety materials available at no cost through the web site www.loggingsafety.com.

This web site, developed by the National Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation and maintained by FRA's Southwide Safety Committee, includes Loss Control Overviews [LCO], Safety Alerts [SA], Technical Releases [TR], and sections from FRA's Timber Harvesting Safety Manual [THSM].

Other materials, such as videotapes and brochures, are listed under Logging Safety Resources and can be obtained from FRA and other organizations at a nominal cost.

The 6 step format to training new employees

STEP 1: An intensive first-day, on-the-job, general logging safety overview for the new employee, followed by specific job function training (as required by OSHA).

Note: Federal OSHA requires that each logging employee be fully trained in First Aid and CPR. Completion of this training should be a condition of continued employment.

STEP 2: A weekly series of 20- to 30-minute safety training sessions to be presented during the first 6 to 8 weeks of employment. These one-to-one, on-the-job, participatory safety sessions cover prioritized safety topics and feature discussion and feedback between the new employee and his or her supervisor.

STEP 3: At several unannounced times each month during the first year of employment, the owner or foreman takes a few minutes to observe formally and document the safety performance of the first-year employee, using a safety performance "checklist". These "safety observation audits" may uncover unsafe acts, conditions or work habits that can be immediately discussed and corrected, as well as positive safety performance that can be reviewed and discussed with the employee at the next monthly safety debriefing (see Step 4).

STEP 4: Safety "debriefings", scheduled once each month (after STEP 2 is completed) throughout the remainder of the first year, are used to reinforce the new employee's safety observation audits, review his general safety performance, discuss safety issues as needed and encourage feedback.

STEP 5: The new employee will also participate in all regular monthly crew-wide safety meetings, as required by OSHA logging safety regulations.

Optional STEP 6: Provide the new employee with a specially colored or distinctly marked hard hat and high-visibility vest to serve as a constant reminder to the other workers that he is a high-risk first-year crew member. After a successful 90-day safety "probationary" period, reward the new employee with a "regular" hard hat and vest at a crew-wide safety meeting.

IN SUMMARY: First-year workers (new employees) incur nearly one-half of the reported logging accidents and injuries each year, and thus present a critical safety challenge to the logging contractor.

This comprehensive, hands-on safety training program, built around easily obtainable, user-friendly safety training materials, presents a structured format to address this challenge. It is the sincere hope of the FRA Southwide Safety Committee and the Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation that a significant number of safety-conscious logging contractors will use this program when they hire new employees, and that fewer injuries will occur to these first-year workers as a result.

For additional training or safety information check out www.loggingsafety.org. We look forward to seeing every logger have a safe and productive logging season. **\$afety \$aves** in so many ways.