

# Choker Setter - Cable System Safety & Health Program Training Guide Supplement



Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

*The following is a supplement to company specific training, other training aids, and the applicable provisions of the Division Seven Forest Activities Code that apply to the job title listed above.*

- As a Choker Setter on a High Lead Side you have an important role in the overall production and safety of the operation. In order for your job to be done safely you will need to know how you must interact with the rest of the employees and machinery on the job site. If you are inexperienced, you may be asked to read the AOL Training Guide Supplements regarding the other jobs being performed on the job site.
- Only authorized employees will be permitted to operate any company equipment or power tools.
- You will be immediately supervised by the Rigging Slinger and Hook Tender. Any questions you have about safety at the job site can initially be directed to them. Bring any further questions or concerns to the attention of your supervisor.

**Supervisor:** A person with the authority to direct the work activities of one or more employees. (Such as a manager, superintendent, foreperson, hooktender, rigging slinger, or person in charge of all or part of the place of employment.)

**Competent person:** A person that has successfully demonstrated the ability to perform the work safely, solve or resolve problems and has been trained and authorized by the employer to: A) Identify existing and predictable conditions surrounding the work site which are potentially hazardous to workers; and, B) Eliminate identified hazards or take reasonable corrective action.

- Your safety and the safety of your fellow employees may be greatly determined by your ability to be alert. Point out any hazards or safety concerns you have as you see them. Be attentive on the job site. Drug and/or alcohol abuse will not be tolerated, nor will horseplay.
- Be observant of the dangers above and surrounding you. Steep terrain, loose rocks, root wads, snags, and other logging hazards may be present. A supply of bright orange "Hazard Identification Ribbon" is kept on the job site for marking hazards. If you see hazard ribbon marking something in your work area it means that a hazardous condition exist. Inform the Rigging Slinger and/or the Hook Tender whenever you see Hazard Identification Ribbon in your work area so they can determine the safest way to remove the hazard or arrange to work around it.
- All loggers not protected by a cab or canopy are required to wear a brightly colored hard hat or upper body cover such as a safety vest. Hard hats provide much needed protection so keep yours in top shape. Do not position yourself under overhead hazards including any rigging or lines.

- Steep terrain and brush will often be part of your work environment. Caulk boots in good condition will be essential. Even with caulk boots slips and falls will be a prime concern. Move cautiously, and avoid jumping and running.
- You may be called upon to operate a chain saw or other piece of logging equipment. Leg protection must be worn whenever a chain saw is used. Carry hearing protection with you and wear it when operating a chain saw, or when operating loud equipment.
- Do Not** operate any equipment or chain saws until management has instructed and authorized you to do so.
- Always wear gloves when handling chokers or other line. Get in the habit of using your legs and arms when pulling line, not just your back.
- You may help splice or cut line. Whenever line is being cut, the person doing the cutting must wear eye protection. There are no exceptions for any type of line cutting device. Know where the eye protection is kept when it is not being used, and use it when cutting line.
- After road changes never assume a line has cleared up, always check and make sure. Do not allow rigging and loads to foul against lines, straps, blocks, or other equipment when in use.
- Check the condition of all rigging on a regular basis, and remove any unsafe rigging immediately. Repair or replace any damaged blocks, shackles or other rigging. Keep blocks well lubricated, or inform the Hook Tender or Rigging Slinger when a block needs lubrication. Check for cracked or worn parts and loose nuts or bolts before use.
- Never ride hooks, lines, rigging or logs being moved, or suggest to other that they do. Do not hold onto any moving line as an assist walking uphill or suggest that others do.
- Before lines are tensioned ensure that you and all others are in the clear of any standing tree anchors, tail trees, or intermediate support trees potential failure zone.
- Potential Failure Zone – An area that could be impacted by the failure of any part of a standing tree anchor, tail or intermediate support tree as a result of forces or loads imposed on the tree by guylines, running lines or skylines. The boundaries of the zone encompass the area into which the tree, or parts of the tree, could fall, slide or roll and all trees, logs, lines and material impacted by the tree failure.
- Learn the whistle system being used on the side you are working on. If you have any questions ask the Rigging Slinger, or Hook Tender.
- Swinging chokers have injured many loggers. Stay well back of the rigging as it is being sent out from the landing. Wait until the chokers have settled down enough so that there is no danger of being struck by a swinging choker before you attempt to get a hold of the chokers to set them.
- Work from the uphill side of logs when working on steep ground. When setting a choker with another employee be careful not to strike your coworkers with a choker nubbin or choker bell.

- Upending logs pose an extreme hazard. Chokers need to be placed near the end, but not closer than two (2) feet from the ends of logs. If this cannot be done, or you are unsure of where the log is hooked because of heavy brush be sure to alert the rest of the rigging crew before the go ahead signal is given. Then, re-set chokers on logs properly before sending the turn to the landing.
- When getting into the clear before the go ahead signal is given, move uphill and behind the turn. Always position yourself at a safe distance so if a log did upend it could not reach where you are standing. Stay on your feet, facing the turn until it has been broken out of its bed.
- Before breaking a turn out of its bed, survey the area for any possible loose objects such as root wads and rocks that could roll as a result of the logs being moved.
- When working near a Snag or Danger Tree all employees must move away from the snag or danger tree far enough to be out of reach of the Snag or Danger Tree before the go ahead signal is sounded, just in case the snag or danger tree falls.
- Do not stand close to a tail hold or corner block stump when tension is being applied to a line. Always stand clear of lines under tension in case a line breaks.
- Medical services and First Aid. The Emergency Evacuation Information for the job site must be posted at the work site after one-day duration. Also check and make sure this information is available whenever the operation moves to a new location. Emergency Evacuation Information must include both land directions to the job site, and the Township-Range and section numbers. All employees need to know the emergency evacuation radio/telephone procedure, and verify that they fully understand it.
- A well stocked first aid kit, blanket, and stretcher must be on the job site at all times. Know the location of these supplies and contact your supervisor if there are any questions.
- Secondary containers of chemicals (paints, saw gas, diesel, motor oil, etc.) must be labeled as to their contents. Maintain the labeling or marking procedures, and encourage the other employees to do the same.

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_