



Choker Setter - Ground Skidding 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.

- Only authorized employees will be permitted to operate any company equipment or power tools.
- As a Choker Setter on a Ground Skidding 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. If supervising or directing the work activities of one or more employees the AOL Supervisors Training Guide Supplement should be completed.
- You will work closely with the Skidding Machine Operator. Any questions or concerns you have about safety at the immediate ground skidding site should be discussed with the skidding machine operator. Bring any further questions or concerns to the attention of your supervisor.
- 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. The Hazard Identification Ribbon will need to be discussed with the Skidding Machine Operator, and a safe way of eliminating or working around the hazard will be determined.
- 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.
- 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.
- Always wear gloves when handling chokers or other line. Be careful not to get a jagger when pulling a "Cat's Ass" out of the drum line. Get in the habit of using your legs and arms when pulling line, not just your back.

- 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.
- 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.
- Learn the hand signals being used to signal machine operators on the side you are working on. If you have any questions ask a Skidding Machine Operator or a Supervisor.
- Pick out the next turn carefully while the Skidding Machine is away. Use that time to determine the safest most productive way to proceed with the operation. Do not wood the machine too heavily. The Skidding Machine Operators safety depends in part on you, and your ability to pick out a turn properly.
- When the skidding machine returns to you, be in a spot where the Skidding Machine Operator can see you clearly. Give the Operator clear hand signal instructions. Survey the area you plan to have the Operator travel over, making sure there is nothing the machine could strike or run over that could possibly cause injury to the operator or yourself.
- 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 Skidding Machine Operator and anyone else in the area before the Operator moves any logs. Then, re-set chokers on logs properly before sending the turn to the landing.
- When getting into the clear before the Operator moves the logs, 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 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 turn 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 Operator moves any logs, just in case the snag or danger tree falls.
- Never hitch a ride on any part of a Skidding Machine. The only person on a Skidding Machine should be the operator sitting in the operator's position.

- 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: _____