



Skidding Machine Operator 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 Skidding Machine Operator, 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, as a Skidding Machine Operator, will interact with the employees and other machinery on the job site.
- Skidding Machines can pose a hazard to employees who may be working on the ground. Good communication between you and these employees is vital for their safety. In order for you to understand their duties you could complete the AOL Training Guide Supplements for CHASER - GROUND SKIDDING and CHOKER SETTER -GROUND SKIDDING, and others if applicable. If supervising or directing the work activities of one ore more employees the AOL Supervisors Training Guide Supplement should be completed.
- In any operation involving power chain saw operation, yarding, loading or a combination of these, there must be a minimum of two employees who work as a team and must be in visual or natural voice communication with one another.
- Since Skidding Machines Operators may work closely with other Skidding Machine Operators, Loader Operators, Choker Setters, Chasers, De-Limber Operators, and others any questions or concerns you have about safety at the job site should be discussed with them immediately. 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 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 exists. The Hazard Identification Ribbon will need to be discussed with the other Skidding Machine Operator(s), Choker Setter(s), and a Supervisor, 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. Whenever you are not in the cab you will need to wear a hard hat. Hard hats provide much needed protection, so keep yours in top shape. Do not position yourself under overhead hazards.
- When setting your own chokers steep terrain and brush may 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. When you are not setting your own chokers you should wear a boot that provides necessary traction and good ankle support. 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 "Cats Ass" out of the drum line. Get in the habit of properly using your legs and arms when pulling line, not just your back.
- You may be called upon to - operate a chain saw. Leg protection must be worn whenever a chain saw is used. Hearing protection must be worn when operating a chain saw.
- Do Not** operate any equipment or chain saws until management has instructed and authorized you to do so. You may be called upon to 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.

437-007-0350 Respiratory Protection When Machines Are Operated

- When the operation of machines expose any employee to dusty conditions and an air-purifying respirator or filtering facepiece is used for personal protection, the respirator must have a N-95 filter rating unless employees are monitored under typical work conditions and found to be exposed to total dust levels less than 10 milligrams per cubic meter of air per 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA).
- When the use of a respirator is required by the standard, the employer must provide respirators, medical evaluations and training, at no cost to the employee.
- Learn the hand signals being used to signal machine operator's on the side you are working on. If you have any questions ask your Supervisor.
- Do not neglect to properly service and maintain your machine. Check the fluid levels daily and keep them within the manufacturers recommended operating levels. Do not operate a ground skidding machine with defective brakes or steering. Report any problems with the machine to your Supervisor.
- Keep all manufacturers and others safety devices such as side screens, hand holds, steps, seat belts, and etc. in good repair. Report any needed repairs to your Supervisor.

437-007-0935 Operation of Ground Skidding Machines and Vehicles

- Machines must not be operated on slopes in excess of the following limits unless specified by the manufacturer of the equipment.

1. Rubber-tired skidders – 30 percent.
2. Crawler tractors, tracked feller bunchers, tracked excavators and loaders – 40 percent.
3. Other forestry equipment designed for steep slopes – 50 percent.

1. Operation in excess of the above limits may be permitted for specific limited application or identified small areas provided the operator and supervisor plan how to safely operate on the steep slopes considering the:

4. Experience of the operator.
5. Limitations of the machine, the soil conditions.
6. Direction of travel (straight up and down the slope).
7. Requirements for turning the vehicle on the slope.
8. Weather.
9. Load sizes.
10. Any other adverse conditions.

- Always lower the blade, and grapple if the machine is equipped with a grapple, when you leave the operating position and maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting. By setting the parking brake and lowering all attachments you will help ensure that the machine will not roll while it is unattended. This must be done whenever you leave the operating position, no exceptions.
- When setting your own chokers, 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 to Choker Setters, and other persons in the area; 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 any person in the area before going ahead on the turn. Reset chokers on logs properly before taking the turn to the landing. Do not skid a turn of logs past any person on the ground in case a log upends.
- Never allow someone to hitch a ride on any part of the Skidding Machine you are operating. The only person on a Skidding Machine should be the operator sitting in the operator's position.
- Do not attempt to wood the machine down too heavily, or operate it at an unsafe speed. Keep control of the machine and work at a steady pace.
- Do not allow logs to accumulate in the landing chute to the point where they are unstable and a hazard to anyone in the landing chute.
- When chokers are being unhooked from logs manually, wait until you receive a clear signal from the Chaser that everyone is in the clear of the landing chute before moving any logs.

- When the skidding machine is being used to deck logs: Decks must be built in an orderly manner to minimize rolling and shifting. Logs must not be decked where they would roll or slide in the direction of people, vehicles, or machines.
- Rearrange or relocate log decks to a different place if the landing process or weather conditions (rain, snow, ice, mud) prevent log stability.
- It is important for you to understand the company Lockout/Tagout Program for securing machines. Never remove a Lockout/Tagout device if you have not been authorized to do so. All authorized employees must demonstrate a working knowledge of the specific shut down procedures they are required to use. Do not attempt to start a machine with a Lockout/Tagout device in place. Bring any questions about the company Lockout/Tagout Program to your supervisor.
- Medical services and First Aid. The Emergency Evacuation Information for the job site must be posted at the work site after one-day duration. 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: _____