

College of Forestry 440: Cutting Trees, Pre-commercial Thinning, and Slash

Safety Policy & Procedure Manual
Section 400: Forest Field Safety
Effective: 01 January 2007
Revised: August 2014

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to ensure that all persons involved in forest field activities that involve cutting or felling of commercial trees, pre-commercial thinning, or cutting brush and slash are properly trained in the field procedures for these activities.

Background Information

Forest activities that require the felling of commercial-sized trees, pre-commercial thinning and slash cutting regulated under Oregon Administrative Rules Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division, Division 7, subdivision I (437-007-0800).

Applicability

All academic, research, students, and visitors in the College of Forestry

POLICY

The policy of the College of Forestry is that no personnel under any circumstances are to fell any tree greater than 6" DBH unless they have been through a recognized training course and have been certified to fell trees. Projects that require felling trees greater than 6" DBH are to contact the College Safety Committee for available personnel who are trained and certified to fell trees. Personnel trained and certified to fell trees are to follow all rules in the section on *Logging Safety* in this manual.

Procedure

The following regulations are for those activities involving trees less than 6" DBH, bucking downed logs, or cutting slash.

Any worker falling a tree or bucking a log must be located so their work will not endanger others.

Personnel must not approach within two tree lengths of a tree being felled without receiving a signal from the person falling the tree that it is safe to approach.

The minimum distance between any worker(s) manually falling trees and any other personnel must be twice the height of the trees being felled.

EXCEPTION: This does not apply to a team of two or more working on the same tree.

NOTE:

All College personnel using chain saws or other tools are to be properly trained. Employees who are inexperienced in log bucking are to be directly supervised by a qualified person during any bucking activities. Supervisors are not to ask employees to use chainsaws for bucking logs if they are uncomfortable or feel unsafe in the activity.

Bucking Logs

Activities involving bucking logs (includes cutting disks off of downed logs) are regulated through OR-OSHA 437-007-0820.

When a worker is bucking, they must give a timely warning to others within range of any log that may move after being cut off. If unsure you should not proceed. In the case of windfalls only qualified persons are to buck windfalls.

Before workers start bucking, they must always examine the log to determine which way logs will roll, drop or swing and notify all others in the area before proceeding.

NOTE:

Never buck a log on the downhill side:

Before a worker starts to buck a tree or log they must:

- (a)** Clear away brush and other material which might interfere with a quick escape.
- (b)** Establish firm footing.

Logs that are not completely bucked through must be conspicuously marked with hazard identification ribbon as required by OR-OSHA 437-007-0205, sections (1) through (5).

Two or more persons must not buck the same tree or log at the same time.

The employer must provide and require employees to use applicable personal protection equipment where required: