



SAFETY BULLETIN

2009 LOGGING SEASON

This economy is affecting everyone and everything. Housing is down, the lumber market has all but disappeared, the mills are flooded with logs and some have a 50 week inventory. Work is scarce and those who do have jobs bid them very low, so income is also being affected. Everyone has to become more efficient with their resources and people. Sometimes in trying to be efficient, short cuts are taken. In order to stay competitive and profitable, everyone is trying to do more with less. People are trying to do more with less equipment and employees but yet sustain the production needed to be profitable.

It is time for everyone to reflect on how they are proceeding this season. We have to stay competitive, but we cannot put ourselves in a dangerous position by ignoring good safety and logging practices. It won't do any good to be "lean and mean" if you incur losses from unnecessary breakdowns or accidents. Also, ensure that you are complying with all the requirements for fire prevention and signage.

Fire Prevention

Be sure you meet the State Requirements for fire tools in your area. All employees need to be trained on all fire fighting tools and equipment. If you have a water tanker, employees need to know how to start the engine and efficiently use the water to fight fire. If you do not keep the nozzle attached to the hose, all employees need to know where it is kept and how to attach it in the event the tanker is needed.

The tools in the fire box need to be inspected to insure that all the handles are in good shape and blades are sharp. When the box is locked, ensure that all the required tools are present in the box. All employees need to know how to open the box in the event of a fire.

Equipment working on private lands is required to have a shovel. Ensure that the shovel is secured, handle is in good shape and blade is sharp. Shovels on some equipment have not been inspected since the day they were placed on the machine. For some, it could be several seasons since it was inspected.

Timber fallers need to carry shovels or a fire extinguishers approved by the Fire Marshal.

A fire watch must take place within two hours after cessation of felling, yarding, or loading operations.

Signage

- Post "Truck Entering" signs where your trucks are entering a public roadway.
- Post CB channel for each road and mileage markers if possible.
- Post smoking and warming fire rules at the job site.

We want everyone to have a safe and profitable year. One way to assure you can do that is to take the necessary measures to reduce the possibility of an accident or insurance claim.

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