

Northwest Forest Worker Safety Review



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Forestry workers are 30 times more likely to die on the job.

WA Logger Safety Initiative

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A choker setter working near a steep cliff in Pacific County in late January slips and falls 50 feet. The fall breaks his back.

This serious injury is what the Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) is working to prevent. The LSI program began in 2012 when industry representatives approached the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) to discuss the high workers compensation premium base rates in non-mechanized logging which were approaching \$20 an hour.

The Department of Labor and Industries assembled a taskforce comprised of landowners, contract logging companies, and government to develop a program that could lower both the injury rate and worker's compensation premiums.

LSI was born out of those discussions. It is a unique program that offers companies up to a 20% discount off their worker's compensation premiums if they meet certain requirements. LSI is a voluntary, program and when a logging contractor enrolls they agree to comply with all of its requirements.

We dedicate this issue to the memory of the forestry workers lost in 2013.

WA Logger Safety Initiative *continued...*

CORE BELIEFS

- We believe that all fatalities and injuries are preventable.
- We believe in a culture where the health and safety of all workers is the highest priority.
- We believe that excellence in health and safety is possible and is important to our long-term success.

OBJECTIVES

- Create a Logger Safety program that establishes sector-wide standards for worker training, performance and supervision.
- Establish a certification process for individual company safety programs to ensure compliance with sector-wide standards and review progress of logging operations through mandatory performance based audits.
- To the extent practical, create an environment of shared learning that fosters honesty and rewards self-reporting of incidents.

Where are we today?

LSI rolled out in January 2014. A total of 89 logging contractors have signed up as of March 27. We have completed 50 Premium Technical Audit visits and 15 Comprehensive Safety Consultations. The third-party auditor is expected to be hired by May and they will begin confirming that LSI participants are meeting requirements.

We look forward to reporting the impact of LSI in reducing injuries and fatalities in the near future.

For more information about the LSI program including a list of participating companies please visit www.loggersafety.org.

There are **five main components** to the program that companies will complete as they move forward, including:

1. **A Comprehensive Safety Consultation from Washington's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH)** – DOSH consultants work with every LSI participant to ensure that they are complying with the safety requirements spelled out in LSI's Accident Prevention Programs (APP). These APPs meet the state's current safety requirements and go above and beyond current state regulations for high risk logging activities.
2. **A Premium Technical Audit** - This audit reviews the hours reported for non-mechanized logging activities by an LSI participating contractor. If premiums are owed, they are collected without penalty.
3. **Worksite location reporting and reporting of work hours for non-mechanized logging** - Participating non-mechanized logging companies must report their work site locations to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. Reports are provided within 48 hours of starting work.
Monthly reporting of work hours for non-mechanized logging companies in LSI was an idea proposed by the logging industry. The expectation is that monthly reporting would be a barrier to underreport hours on the quarterly report. Participating companies still submit their quarterly reports required by law. Total hours reported is one of many factors used to determine the premium rates for an industry.
4. **Third-party audit** - Stakeholders felt that peer evaluation of contractor's logging safety practices would promote an improvement in the industry's safety culture. A third-party auditor will be hired to confirm an LSI participant's compliance with LSI safety requirements. The third-party auditor will be independent of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. Once the third-party auditor confirms a participant is meeting LSI requirements, the company will be eligible for an additional 10% discount on their workers' compensation premiums.
5. **Landowner requirements** - Landowners engaged with LSI partner with logging contractors and government to improve the safety culture of the logging industry. LSI includes requirements for landowners. Landowners must facilitate safety training for logging contractors. Landowners must report any non-mechanized logging contractor they hire who is not a member of LSI to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. Individual landowners have committed to hiring only LSI certified logging contractors.



US Forestry Workforce Review & Assessment

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Last September, 25 professionals from industry, agencies, loggers associations, forestry associations, USDA Extension, NIOSH Agriculture Safety and Health Centers, equipment manufacturers, non-profits, research organizations and universities met to conduct a “Forestry Workforce Review and Assessment” in Washington, D.C. The meeting addressed the complex issues of recruiting, training, retention and physical viability of the forestry workforce which includes the logging workforce, forestry transportation workers, professionals, and those providing forestry services to the sector. These leaders came together to form a Forestry Workforce Alliance to continue workforce assessment and improvement efforts.

The group reviewed forestry workforce status, issues and stakeholder concerns about workforce viability. The group discussed data gaps that limit knowledge of how many and where forestry workers are located. Individuals shared their experiences and needs for the forestry workers especially shortages of skilled workers and contractors in areas where the forest industry is expanding.

Issues and next steps identified:

- Estimating the forestry workforce with limited data sets, discrepancies in national level data and underreporting due to small/part-time firms, informal economy and subcontracting.
- Addressing the lack of non-fatal injury and health information to direct injury and fatality prevention efforts.
- Training for young and inexperienced workers as they enter the workforce post-recession and to replace the retiring workers. Addressing the anticipated loss of expertise and increased demand for skilled workers.
- Share model regional workforce improvement efforts among the forestry sectors.

An immediate outcome was to form a broad North American Forestry Workforce Network using social media to communicate. This is now available through LinkedIn® by requesting membership in the Forestry Workforce Network.

Participate through your LinkedIn account
at www.linkedin.com

Search Groups for
“FORESTRY WORKFORCE NETWORK”

Select Join!



The Forestry Workforce Alliance and Network are new, volunteer enterprises that will continue collaborative efforts, engage partners and pursue priority projects. The Workforce meeting was made possible with financial support from Forest Operations Research Unit, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Auburn, AL.



Forest Worker Safety and Health RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Programs & Information Clearinghouses

- PNASH Forest Safety Website & Forest Worker Safety Review Newsletter
Stay informed, share your news, and learn about focus topics and research findings. http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/forestsafety_news
- Amerisafe Logging Tips <http://www.amerisafe.com/site23.php>
- Center for Research on Occupation and Environmental Toxicology (CROET), Logging Resources <http://croetweb.com/links.cfm?topicID=31>
- National Timber Harvesting & Transportation Safety Foundation <http://loggingsafety.com>
- NIOSH Logging Safety Research <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/logging>
- Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) Logging E-tool <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/logging/index.html>
- OSHA Logging Safety Recognition, Control and Standards
Also contact local associations; These programs offer additional training and insurance support. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/logging>

Additional Relevant Topics - Spanish Materials

- Oregon Safety and Health Program for Forest Activities – sample program (Spanish/English) <http://www.oro sha.org/pdf/pubs/forms/forest-activities-s-h-written-program.pdf>
- Forest Activities Hazard Training Cards and Glossary of Terms (Spanish/English) http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/ORforest_training
- Restoration Forestry Training Modules (Spanish/English) <http://nwforestworkers.org/resources/training.html>

Additional Spanish language materials are listed by topic below.

Chain Shot in Mechanized Logging

- Hazard of Chain Shot in Logging <http://www.oro sha.org/pdf/hazards/2993-29.pdf>

Chemical/Pesticides

- Protect Yourself from Pesticides (Spanish/English) <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/osha/pdf/pubs/4856.pdf>
- National Pesticide Information Center <http://www.npic.orst.edu>
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/worker.htm>

Cutting/Chain Saws

- CROETWEB Wood Products <http://croetweb.com/links.cfm?subtopicID=265>

Musculoskeletal

- PNASH article, “Aches, Pains, and Strains” http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/files/forest_news/2009_NWFWSR.pdf

Forest Worker Safety and Health

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Heat Related Illness

- Outdoor Heat Exposure, WA Dept. of Labor & Industries <http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety/topics/atoz/heatstress>
- OSHA's Campaign to Prevent Heat Illness in Outdoor Workers (multiple languages) <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness>
- PNASH's Heat Illness Prevention (English/Spanish) http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/heat_illness

Noise Exposure

- Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention
See the noise meter! <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/pubs.html>
- PNASH article, Hearing Loss - Risks and Prevention http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/files/forest_news/2008_NWFWSR.pdf

Reforestation and Restoration Forestry

- Restoration Forestry Training Modules (Spanish/English) <http://www.nwforestworkers.org/resources/resources.html>

Rigging

- Crowding the Rigging <http://www.orosha.org/pdf/hazards/2993-28.pdf>
- Synthetic Rope <http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/node/33>

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Personal Protective Equipment for Logging http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainTools/Online/Courses/courseinfo.asp?P_ID=94

Trucking

- Keep Trucking Safe <http://www.keeptruckingsafe.org>
- A Checklist for Efficient Log Trucking http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-094/420-094_pdf.pdf

Danger Tree Identification

- Field Guide for Danger Tree Identification and Response http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2_025069.pdf
- Guidelines for Selecting Reserve Trees <http://www.lni.wa.gov/IPUB/417-092-000.pdf>

Additional Links

- General Safety, Health and Labor <http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/links>

Northwest Organizations

- Association of Oregon Loggers http://www.oregonloggers.org/Safety_resources.aspx
- Idaho Logging Safety Bureau <http://dbs.idaho.gov/programs/logging/index.html>
- Oregon OSHA http://www.cbs.state.or.us/osh/standards/div_7.html
- Montana Logging Association <http://www.logging.org>
- Northwest Forest Worker Center <http://www.nwforestworkers.org>
- Washington Contract Loggers Association <http://loggers.com>
- Washington Dept of Labor & Industries and the Washington State Logger Safety Initiative <http://www.lni.wa.gov/main/loggersafety>
- Work Safe British Columbia <http://www.worksafebc.com>

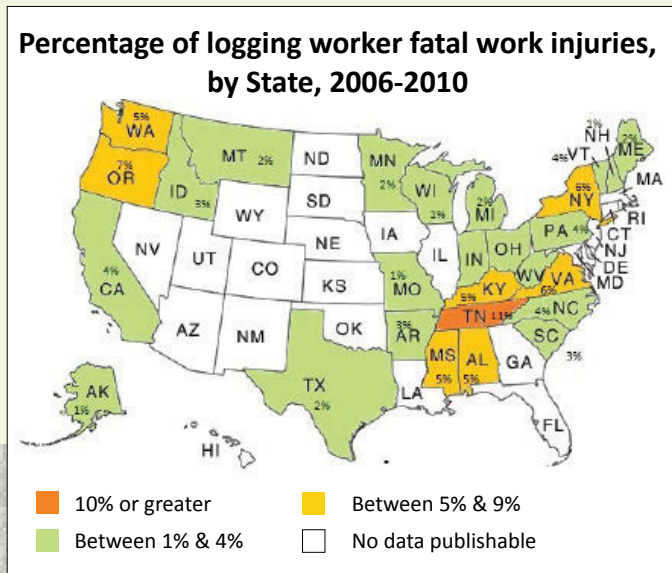
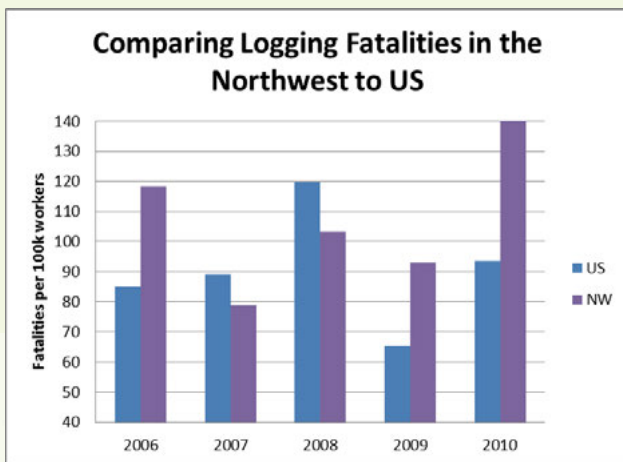
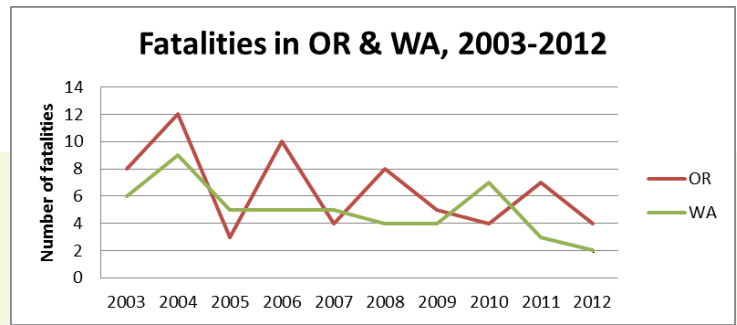
NW Injury and Fatality Report

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Washington and Oregon have continued to endure 3-5 yearly fatalities over the last half decade. However, these numbers have remained relatively static while total workers employed in the industry have declined. Employment in the logging industry in the Northwest declined over 30% in during the period 2006-2010, (from 12,300 to just 8,400 combined between OR and WA) and as a result, loggers in OR and WA continue to die at higher rates than almost anywhere else in the country.

This increasing trend also shows up in the injury data. Both injuries and serious injuries (those we define as requiring time off the job or change in work) were at or near local lows in '09 and '10 only to see rates increase across the industry for the next couple of years. In 2012 this upward trend leveled off or reversed course across all available data.

Note that this data has a number of limitations. A key issue is the underreporting of both the number of people conducting logging work and the injuries and illness that occur. It is our hope that with the WA Logging Safety Initiative underway, we will soon have more accurate data on the numbers, rates, job tasks and nature of injuries. This is essential information for developing injury prevention solutions.



Injury and Illness Surveillance Resources

- NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/>
- North American Industry Classification System, Standard Industrial Classification BLS Injury, Illness, and Fatality, <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>
- Oregon OSHA, <http://www.orosha.org/>
- Washington Labor and Industries, Safety and Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP), <http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety/research/>

2014-2015 Northwest Logging and Forestry Safety Events



- September 24-25, 2014 63rd Annual Washington Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference, Spokane, WA
- September 25-27, 2014 Pacific Logging Congress 7th in the Woods Show, Molalla, OR
- November 8, 2014 Associated Oregon Loggers Annual Statewide Safety Conference, Valley River Inn, Eugene, OR
- January 17, 2015 Washington Logging Safety Conference, Washington Contract Loggers Association, Grand Mound, WA
- February 18-21, 2015 Oregon Logging Conference, Eugene, OR
- March 9-12, 2015 Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety & Health Conference, Portland, OR

*Note: Additional logging courses are also offered to members of state contract logging associations.
Please contact your association for more information.*

Notice: Oregon OSHA Rule Amendment

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Oregon OSHA filed a proposed rule to amend 437-007-0780 (Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Used On or After July 1, 2014) by adding an exception for excavator based machines, manufactured prior to July 2004, that are equipped and maintained with a front and top protective structure that meets the performance criteria of SAE J1356:FEB88 or ISO 10262:1998 Level II. The proposed rule does not change any rule requirements for machines manufactured on or after July 1, 2004.

For more information visit www.oroSHA.org

Click "Logging" on Oregon OSHA's A-Z Topics webpage.

437-007-0775 - Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Manufactured On or After July 1, 2004

437-007-0780 - Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Used On or After July 1, 2014

The following publication is also informative: *"Machines used in forest activities: what are the cab requirements?"*



PNASH



Northwest Forest Worker Safety Review

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To add names to our distribution list, suggest ideas for future issues, or list events contact Marcy Harrington at (206) 685-8962, (800) 330-0827, or marcyw@uw.edu.

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