

## Story #5: Searching for a Better Future

	<p><b>This is a new method that we're using, where forest workers tell their own stories.</b></p>
<b>Story Description</b>	<p>■ The story you are about to watch is about a forest worker who had an accident one day. He was cutting down trees in a very steep area and when he cut one pine tree, part of a dried branch fell on his head and knocked him to the ground. He felt dizzy but got up quickly to keep from fainting. He called over to a coworker to tell him what had happened, because his neck hurt a lot. The foreman wasn't nearby but when he got there, he told the foreman what had occurred and that he couldn't work any longer but the foreman ignored him. He waited the whole day and didn't get to the clinic until the next day. His boss wouldn't authorize the insurance to pay for his treatment because the boss wanted to pay with a credit card to keep the insurance company from finding out. It took eight days before the worker received the medical treatment he needed.</p> <p>Key points that are illustrated in this story:</p> <p><u>Unsafe conditions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proper medical attention wasn't provided at the worksite. Your employer is responsible for ensuring that you get first aid and if necessary get taken for medical treatment.</li><li>• Workers have rights to worker compensation and to receive medical care for injuries and payments if you lose wages for more than 3 days or if hospitalized overnight.</li></ul> <p><u>Dealing with the injury afterwards:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The worker had to wait a long time before receiving adequate medical attention.</li><li>• The foreman did not want to report the injury to keep the insurance company from finding out.</li></ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	After viewing or discussing this digital story, the workers will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe ways to prevent being hit by falling branches or trees.</li><li>2. Describe what your employer should provide if you are injured.</li><li>3. Describe workers' rights and other protections.</li></ol>
<b>Time</b>	15 min – 30 min depending on location or conversation
<b>Audience</b>	SHORT: Small group of workers (1-4) on the street or in public places LONGER: Group of workers (+4) with an established appointment
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• iPad/tablet</li><li>• Speakers/ Headphones and appropriate adapter</li><li>• Cards with talking points (optional)</li></ul>

## Steps/Notes

1. Show the story first. Before proceeding, give the participants a moment to take in the content.
2. Ask the participants to share how the story makes them feel and describe the parts of the story that they relate to.
3. Use the questions and discussion points below to guide a conversation about the story. If you have more time, you can cover the “Additional Points” in the last column.

	<b>If you have a short amount of time (10-30 min) Make sure to discuss the following Questions:</b>	<b>Additional Points</b>
<b>What do you think of the story?</b>	How did it make you feel?	
<b>What's got your attention in this story?</b>	<p>What did you notice? What did the worker talk about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was pressure to work fast.</li> <li>• He stopped working even though the foreman ignored his request to stop</li> <li>• Importance of speaking up.</li> <li>• It was hard to get the medical treatment he needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Have you or someone you know experienced something like this story?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask them to share.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Injured on the job?</li> <li>◦ Employer didn't pay for injury?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>How do you think his injuries could have been prevented?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check trees for dead branches.</li> <li>• Look up, look down, look to the sides</li> <li>• Have an emergency plan</li> <li>• Watch out for each other. Communicate about hazards you see.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't work too fast or hurry.</li> <li>• Don't compete with your co-workers.</li> <li>• Fatigue and dehydration can contribute to the likelihood of an injury</li> </ul>
<b>What steps should be taken when an injury occurs on the job?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The worker should notify the supervisor immediately.</li> <li>• The contractor should take the injured worker to the closest hospital if they need more than first aid.</li> <li>• The worker should receive appropriate medical attention.</li> <li>• The injured worker should receive workers' compensation.</li> <li>• The injured worker should be given enough time to recover.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When someone gets injured, the contractor must provide safe transportation to medical facilities.</li> <li>• To receive workers compensation, the injured worker must fill out Form-801 and inform the doctor that it is a work-related injury.</li> </ul>

<p><b>What are the contractor's responsibilities?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Personal Protective Equipment.</li> <li>• Provide a safe work environment.</li> <li>• Provide training and information about workplace hazards in a language that workers understand.</li> <li>• Have an emergency plan and first aid kit.</li> <li>• Provide workers compensation. This covers medical expenses for work-related injuries and payment if you lose wages for more than 3 days.</li> <li>• Provide safe transportation.</li> <li>• Provide clean water and provide breaks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</u> must be in good condition and the contractor should make sure it is used.</li> <li>• Encourage communication with coworkers.</li> <li>• <u>Breaks</u>: Oregon law says workers have the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paid breaks (10 minutes) for every 4 hours worked.</li> <li>○ Lunch: 30 minutes (without pay)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>What are other protections that workers have?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to take action to improve working conditions.</li> <li>• Right to report defective equipment and tools.</li> <li>• Right to report harassment even if it's hard to prove.</li> <li>• Protection from retaliation.</li> <li>• Right to ask for an OSHA inspection and speak to the inspector in private.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak up if you think a task or idea is dangerous.</li> <li>• If you make a complaint to OSHA, you have to say you want to be anonymous.</li> <li>• There are protections against retaliation.</li> <li>• The contractor is not allowed to fire you for exercising your rights, but if it happens, seek help from legal aid organizations.</li> <li>• Workers can file a complaint with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)</li> </ul>

*Additional Questions if time allows (30-60 minutes)*

### Closure

As previously mentioned, this is a new method that we are using and we would like to ask you some questions about the method.

**If you have a short amount of time (10-30 min). Make sure to discuss the following Questions:**

- 1. What did you like about the video?**
- 2. Is there something you didn't like about the video? Why?**
- 3. What did you like or dislike during the rest of the workshop and discussion?**
- 4. Did you learn something that was new to you? What did you learn?**

# STORY #5

## “SEARCHING FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

12/2017

# Story Objectives

- Describe ways to prevent being hit by falling branches or trees
- Describe what your employer should provide if you are injured
- Describe workers' rights and other protections

- This is a new method that we're using, where forest workers tell their own stories.
- The story you are about to watch is about a forest worker who had an accident one day. He was cutting down trees in a very steep area and when he cut one pine tree, part of a dried branch fell on his head and knocked him to the ground. He felt dizzy but got up quickly to keep from fainting. He called over to a coworker to tell him what had happened, because his neck hurt a lot. The foreman wasn't nearby but when he got there, he told the foreman what had occurred and that he couldn't work any longer but the foreman ignored him. He waited the whole day and didn't get to the clinic until the next day. His boss wouldn't authorize the insurance to pay for his treatment because the boss wanted to pay with a credit card to keep the insurance company from finding out. It took eight days before the worker received the medical treatment he needed.
- Let's Watch the story....

## **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STORY?**

Listen to their opinions

## WHAT GOT YOUR ATTENTION IN THE STORY?

Listen to their opinions

**HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
EXPERIENCED SOMETHING LIKE  
THIS STORY?**

Listen to their opinions

12/2017

## HOW DO YOU THINK HIS INJURIES COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?



- Look up
- Look down
- Look to the sides
- Check for dead branches



Have an emergency plan



Communicate with your co-workers

# WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN AN INJURY OCCURS ON THE JOB?

**1**

**The worker should notify the supervisor immediately**

- To evaluate the situation

**2**

**The contractor should take the injured worker to the closest hospital**

- Depending on the severity

**3**

**The worker should receive appropriate medical attention**



**4**

**The injured worker should receive workers' compensation.**

- Complete form 801



**5**

**The injured worker should be given enough time to recover.**

- Change daily tasks

# WHAT ARE THE CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

( REGARDING WORKING CONDITIONS)



- Provide Personal Protective equipment
- Safe work environment

- Provide training and information about workplace hazards

- In a language that workers understand



**Have an emergency plan and first aid kit.**



**Provide Medical Compensation**

- Medical expenses
- Possible pay for some wages



**Provide safe transportation**



**Provide clean water and provide breaks**

- Fatigue and dehydration increase likelihood of accidents

## WHAT ARE OTHER PROTECTIONS THAT WORKERS HAVE?

### RIGHT TO....

**Take action to improve working conditions.**

- Talk with each other if something feels unsafe.



### Right to report defective equipment and tools



Without fear of retaliation

### Right to report harassment

- Hard to prove



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3. What did you like or dislike during the rest of the workshop and discussion?
4. Did you learn something that was new to you? What did you learn?

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