

NIOSH ALERT

Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Loggers

WARNING!

Workers in the logging industry are at high risk of injury and death if proper safety procedures and equipment are not used.

Take the following steps to protect yourself during logging operations:

1. Follow all of the safe work procedures outlined in the written safety program provided by your employer.
2. Use appropriate personal protective equipment for the work being performed: safety helmets and boots, eye protection, face protection, protective clothing, hearing protection, dust masks, chaps, guards, etc.
3. Evaluate each new situation for snow and ice accumulation, wind, lean of the tree, dead limbs, and location of other trees or hazards. Take proper precautions *before starting a cut*.
4. Make sure that the distance between workers is at least twice the height of the trees being felled.
5. Remove dead, broken, or rotted limbs, loose bark, and trees that are a hazard before beginning logging operations.
6. Do not work under a tree that is lodged against another tree. Before work begins in the area, fell or remove the tree using mechanical means or other techniques that minimize worker exposures.
7. When cutting a spring pole or other tree under stress, permit no one but the feller to be closer than two tree lengths when the stress is released. Cut spring poles under the bend so that they will not strike workers when the tension is released.
8. Select the appropriate chain saw and components for the type of work to be performed. Use and maintain chain saws according to the manufacturer's instructions.
9. Use seat belts on all appropriate mobile equipment.

For additional information, see *NIOSH Alert: Request for Assistance in Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Loggers* [DHHS (NIOSH) 95-101], or call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674). Single copies are available free from the following:

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