

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-245
Issued December 19, 2000
Revised October 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Local Emphasis Program (LEP): Struck-by Hazards in the Logging Industry

AFFECTED CODES/

DIRECTIVES: OAR 437 Division 7, Forest Activities
OAR 437 Division 1, General Administrative Rules

PURPOSE: This directive describes policies and procedures for implementing a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) to reduce the incidence of serious injuries and fatalities in the logging industry resulting from occupational exposure to struck-by hazards.

BACKGROUND: Struck-by incidents continue to be the leading cause of serious injuries in the Oregon logging industry, accounting for 33.9 percent of all accepted disabling claims during 2013-2015. In Oregon from 2013-2015, there were 276 accepted disabling claims in the logging industry that were classified as struck-by, which is an average of 92 a year. In the occupation of buckler/cutter/faller, struck-by incidents accounted for 53.5 percent of the claims based on claims data 2013-2015.

Continuing the emphasis on struck-by hazards in the logging industry and evaluating the employer's safety and health program will focus resources toward the hazard that accounts for a large portion of the serious disabling injuries and fatalities in the logging industry.

As identified by worker compensation statistics for accepted disabling claims from 2013-2015, buckler/cutter/faller, chokerman/choker setter, chaser/bumper/landingman, rigger/rigging slinger, and hooker/hook tender are the occupations in which an employee is most likely to be struck by an object or a piece of equipment. The specific processes performed by employees in these occupations will be evaluated for struck-by hazards during a logging emphasis inspection.

Many struck-by accidents result in serious injuries or fatalities. The employer must ensure employees receive emergency care and emergency medical service. The employer's emergency medical plan will be evaluated during a logging emphasis inspection.

ACTION:

Logging inspections must be conducted by safety compliance officers (SCOs) who have been authorized by their managers to conduct such inspections. When an active logging site is located, the SCO will determine if the firm is one of the 50 employers on the logging inspection scheduling list. If they are, a comprehensive inspection will be conducted. If they are not, a logging emphasis inspection may be conducted where falling/bucking, yarding/skidding, or chaser/knot bumping processes are in progress, focusing on the struck-by hazards and the emergency medical plan. However, an employer will not receive a logging emphasis inspection more than twice in a 12 month period. A follow-up inspection may be conducted per OAR 437-001-0055(6).

***NOTE:** Mechanical logging operations, where there are no employees working on the ground, are exempt from this emphasis program. If a SCO observes an imminent danger or serious hazard at a mechanical logging site, they may conduct a referral inspection based on the guidelines in the FIRM.*

(a) All inspection activity under this LEP will be tracked in OTIS as follows:

1. The **Inspection Type** for those inspections conducted under this Local Emphasis Program must be marked as Program Planned.
2. Designate the Local Emphasis Program in OTIS on the Inspection Detail>Insp Info>Emphasis Tab as Logging Operations.

(b) SCOs addressing struck-by hazards will evaluate the following:

Falling/Bucking:

1. The distance between cutters or other workers or machinery
2. Working near snags, danger trees and hang-ups
3. Working below felled and bucked timber
4. Working near unstable objects

5. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE), including eye protection
6. Power saw safety features
7. The use of proper falling tools

Yarding/Skidding/Helicopter Logging:

1. Working near snags and danger trees
2. Staying clear of turns of logs
3. Staying clear of lines, rigging and machinery
4. Working near unstable objects
5. The use of PPE, including eye protection
6. Working near tail and intermediate support trees
7. Protective structures for equipment operators and seat belts
8. Guyline, skyline and running line anchorages
9. Working in the drop zone of helicopter logging operations

Chaser/Knot Bumper:

1. The location of snags and danger trees in or near the work area
2. Staying clear of machinery
3. Staying clear of logs and lines
4. The use of PPE, including eye protection
5. Working near unstable objects
6. Clearances around rotating equipment
7. Unsecured loads on trucks in loading area
8. Working near bidirectional equipment

Medical Services and First Aid:

1. First aid and CPR
2. Radio/phone communications
3. Work site location information
4. First aid supplies

Safety and Health Program:

1. Management Commitment
2. Supervisory Responsibilities
3. Accident Investigation
4. Employee Involvement
5. Hazard Identification and Control

6. Training
7. Annual Program Evaluation

- (c) During the opening or closing conference, employee interviews and talking with the crew, the SCO will reinforce the importance of getting in the clear and being alert to being struck by hazards.

If during the course of the inspection, serious hazards are identified in areas not related to the emphasis program, the inspection may be expanded to cover those serious hazards.

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:**

This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.

History: Issued 12-19-2000, Revised 07-01-2003, 10-01-2006, 06-06-2013, and 10-12-2016.