

MLEP TREELINE

Volume 7, Issue 1

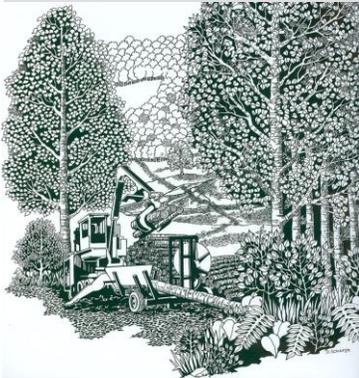
www.mlep.org

Spring 2009



Did You Know That:

- There are 16.3 million acres of forest land in Minnesota?
- The Nation's largest white spruce measures 130' tall, has a 125" circumference and 28' crown spread, and is located near Littlefork?



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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

MLEP and LogSafe – An Exciting Partnership

Over the past several months, the Department of Labor & Industry (DLI), MLEP and a dozen others representing the forestry community were a part of an effort sponsored by the Blandin Foundation's Vital Forests / Vital Communities Initiative. This effort, the "Continuing Education of Forestry Professionals Task Force", was charged with reviewing current professional forestry continuing education practices and devising a strategic plan of action for the delivery of continuing education and training services for Minnesota forestry professionals, including foresters, forestry technicians, loggers, and closely-related positions.

The task force had several excellent recommendations for improving the delivery of continuing education for Minnesota loggers. Those recommendations include partnering with MLEP to deliver LogSafe training. Therefore, DLI and MLEP will be partnering in the following way:

Roles and Responsibilities

DLI

- Provide onsite workplace safety consultation services to those loggers requesting assistance
- Administer targeted industry fund & rebate program
- Approve the classroom training

MLEP

- Work with new "Education Planning Working Group" to identify, design and deliver Logger classroom training
- Administer classroom safety training programs including CPR and First-aid training
- Maintain all classroom training records
- Provide a quarterly report or upon request a list of participants of classroom training
- Conduct evaluations of the class room training and provide summaries to the "Education Planning Working Group"

A copy of the complete report can be accessed on the MLEP website at:
<http://www.mlep.org/documents/VFVCFinalReport110408.pdf>



Reduced Training Hours in 2009!

MLEP and LogSafe recently approved reducing the number of required training hours. These changes are aimed at increasing the quality of training that loggers receive as well as improving the level of knowledge retention and overall adult education learning experience. Previous Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) policy stated that a logger needed to attend 8 hours of LogSafe training annually and members of MLEP were required to attend an additional 8 hours annually.

To maintain MLEP membership in 2009, a business owner and/or an "in-woods" person actively responsible for each logging site must attend:

Safety Training - Twelve (12) hours of safety training every two years:

- Four (4) hours of CPR
- Four (4) hours of First-Aid
- Four (4) hours of Safety Training

Continuing Education - Twelve (12) hours of MLEP training every two years:

- Mix of 4 and 8 hour workshops

MLEP members must attend at least 12 hours each year to remain a member in good standing. Logging employees (in-woods) would be required to attend at least 4 hours of safety training each year and complete CPR and First-Aid training every two years for DLI rebate eligibility.

At a minimum, SFI requires the business owner and one "in-woods" person actively responsible for each logging site must be a "trained professional logger". In some cases, the business owner may also be the "in-woods" person.

Are All Your Employees Trained & Current in CPR and 1st Aid?



During a recent conversation with a group of loggers, there was some confusion about the OSHA requirement regarding CPR and First-Aid training for employees. Some loggers thought you only needed to have one employee on each crew current with their CPR and first-aid training.

This is NOT true. The OSHA Logging Standard requires employers to assure that **each employee**, including supervisors, receives or has received first-aid and CPR training and that each employee's first-aid and CPR training remain current.

For more information on the OSHA Logging Standard, it can be located at: http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/logging/userguide/scope_application/scope_application.html .



MN Master Logger Certification Program Update



Verso Paper has provided another \$15,000 in funding for MMLC. This funding is greatly appreciated and needed. Currently, we have two new applicants and are in the process of recertifying 14 logging businesses.

We had a request for proposals (RFP) earlier this month requesting bids for conducting the field audits. Those bids have since been awarded and the business practice audits will be completed over the next couple of months. The field audits will take place in early spring. The certifying board is planning to take action on these applications and recertifications in June.

SFI Presents \$3,000 Check to Habitat for Humanity

A Habitat for Humanity project in Hibbing that's the first of its kind in the U.S. concluded recently, when representatives from Habitat and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) gathered at the newly-constructed home to present a \$3,000 check from SFI.

The donation is the final part in providing the needed funding to partner with Kelli Ritz in building her home. "My daughter and I have been overwhelmed this year by the generosity of so many people and organizations during every step of the process to help make this beautiful new house our home," said Ritz. "We feel very blessed to have worked with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, who partnered with Habitat to provide certified materials, volunteers and funds for building our wonderful home."



From left: MN SFI State Implementation Committee Coordinator Tim O'Hara presents a check to Nathan Thompson, Executive Director of the North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. Kelli Ritz, homeowner and Terry Worthman, MN SFI Committee Chair are also pictured

Locate a Logger Based on Equipment Type



Looking for a logger who has a conventional operation or one that owns a grinder? You can now search the online MLEP membership directory by operation type. Operation type categories include: conventional, cut to length, hand felling, chipper, grinder and horse logging.

Visit the online directory at www.mlep.org/directorysearch.asp to try out the new directory search functions. Loggers who would like to update their listing can do so by emailing Chris.DeRosier@mlep.org or by calling (218) 722-5442.



Minnesota Forest Industry Update

At MLEP workshops, timber sale auctions and elsewhere - many conversations are taking place regarding the status of wood-using mills and current timber harvest levels in Minnesota. In response, the DNR Forest Products Utilization & Marketing Program staff has produced an update on wood industry status, estimated impacts of mill shutdowns, and emerging woody biomass markets.

Key points in the report were:

- Annual forest harvest levels in Minnesota have dropped an estimated 685,000 to 920,000 cords since 2005.
- A drop of over 1 million cords of demand in the engineered wood and sawmill sectors has been partially offset by a drop in net imports, and a rise in “roundwood” for commercial energy use.
- Private lands have seen by far the largest drop in harvest and forest management levels due to their sensitivity to lower timber prices.
- Public agency timber has become more critical than ever to forest industry competitiveness, and to the ability to manage Minnesota’s forests through industry markets. Public agency harvest has fallen much less than on private lands, and for some agencies such as DNR, has actually risen

You can get your own copy of the report on the MLEP website here or by contacting the MLEP office:

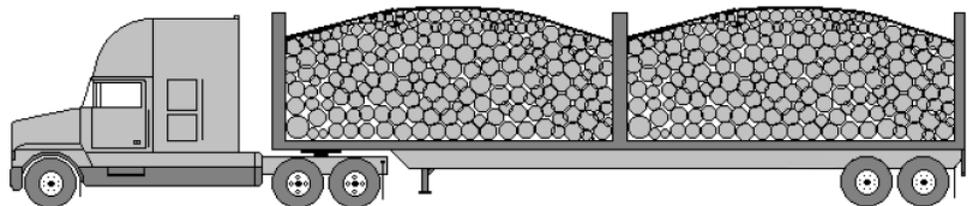
<http://www.mlep.org/documents/mnestimatedwooduse121508.pdf>

Updated Load Securement Brochure

The Minnesota Logger Education Program and the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, in cooperation with the Minnesota State Patrol, have recently updated and reprinted a brochure on Load Securement Standards. The brochure is available online or by contacting our office.

Also, we have received some calls asking about the use of a center strap to divide a load of shortwood logs loaded crosswise. A vehicle that is more than 33 feet long must be equipped with center stakes, or comparable devices, to divide it into sections approximately equal in length. The State Patrol does not recognize a center strap as a "comparable device". An example of a "comparable device" would be a center-mount loader.

RIGHT: Vehicles over 33 ft. must be equipped with center stakes, or comparable devices, to divide it into sections of equal length. Each tiedown must secure the highest log on each side of the center stake and be fastened below these logs.



County Land Department Directory

Charlie Blinn of the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources has compiled a handy directory of Minnesota county land department personnel. The county land department can be viewed and printed at www.mlep.org/documents/mncountylanddeptdir09.pdf or contact the MLEP office to have a copy mailed to you.



New Invasive Species Guidelines for Timber Harvests on DNR Lands

The DNR is implementing new management guidelines designed to minimize the risk of introducing and spreading damaging invasive species in the forest. Loggers are being asked to voluntarily comply with the guidelines when working on DNR-administered lands.

Invasive species are being introduced and spread at an ever-increasing rate. Once established, they can permanently alter the soil structure, disrupt native plant communities, reduce dependent wildlife populations, and impact long-term forest productivity. The goal is to slow the spread of existing infestations and minimize the risk of introducing new infestations of damaging invasive species into our forests. The DNR is asking loggers to:

Before Harvest

Review the division's invasive species guidelines with all workers and subcontractors working on the site. Ensure that all vehicles, equipment, and trailers are free of caked mud, dirt clods, plants, plant parts, bark, or debris before they enter the site.

During or After Harvest

Remove any caked mud, dirt clods, plants, plant parts, bark, or debris from all vehicles, equipment, and trailers before they leave the site. Work with the timber sale administrator to correct any problems he/she may have observed with vehicles and equipment moving on and off-site (for example, vehicles or logs caked with mud).

A brochure outlining these guidelines can be obtained online or by contacting the MLEP office:

<http://www.mlep.org/documents/invasivesdnrtimber.pdf>

Five Tips to Control Your Tire Costs



In the September/October 2008 issue of TimberWest magazine, Tim Miller from Goodyear Commercial Tires outlines five tips for controlling tire and vehicle costs. With tires as the second highest operating cost after fuel, a solid tire maintenance program can help reap solid dividends. "It could add thousands of dollars to your bottom line, thanks to longer tread life and more retreads down the road," says Goodyear commercial tire marketing manager Tim Miller. "Add in good driving habits — smooth acceleration, braking, and steering — and you have the recipe for lower maintenance and tire costs."

1. Tire inflation pressure
2. Periodic tire inspections
3. Total axle alignment
4. Worn components
5. Rotate tires to maximize casing life

You can learn more about these tips by reading the full article at:

http://www.forestnet.com/TWissues/Sept_08/tire.html





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www.mlep.org

Upcoming Training Events

April

1 - Truck Weight Compliance - Duluth
7 & 8 - MLEP Logger Conference - Tower
8 - Truck Weight Compliance - Rochester
14 & 15 - MLEP Logger Conference - Walker
15 - Truck Weight Compliance - Alexandria

May

5 - GPS - Rochester
7 - GPS - Grand Rapids
13 - Landview - Cloquet
13 - Accessing Online Photos - Cloquet
20 - Operator Select/Timber Marking - Bemidji
19 - Timber Marking - Bemidji/Hackensack

Spring LogSafe Classes:

March 25 - Rochester
March 31 - Baudette
April 1 & 2 - International Falls
April 8 - Tower (MLEP Conference)
April 9 - Two Harbors
April 15 - Walker (MLEP Conference)
April 21 & 22 - Grand Rapids
April 23 - Biwabik
April 28 - Cloquet
April 29 - Brainerd
May 5 - Brainerd

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