

# MLEP TREELINE

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## Did You Know:

- Wood products are less energy intensive to manufacture than steel, concrete, or aluminum.
- Minnesota timberland acreage has increased by 2.1 million acres in the last 30 years.



## Individual Highlights:

2013 Logger Nominations	1
Log A Load Curling	1
Wood Yard Safety Video	2
Regional Outstanding Logger	2
DNR Forest Road Channel	2
Onsite Emergency Info	3
TreezyDoesIt.com	3

*The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program*

## Who Will Be the 2013 Logger of the Year?

The Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Logger of the Year Award. We encourage you to nominate an exceptional logger today. The winning logger will receive a \$500 cash award and "2013 Logger of the Year" plaque.

Nominations are due March 11, 2013. The winner will be notified in April and the award will be presented at the MLEP Logger Conferences.

The 2012 (Erickson Timber Products, Inc.), 2011 (M & R Chips, Inc.), 2009 (Berthiaume Logging LLC) and 2008 (Pittack Logging, Inc.) winners went on to win the Forest Resources Association Regional Logger of the Year award. This is a great way to recognize the work of environmentally responsible, safe, professional loggers in Minnesota!

Nomination forms are being mailed out to loggers. You can also contact the MLEP office for a form or it can be found at <http://www.mlep.org/documents/2013loynomform.pdf>

## Log A Load for Kids Curling FUNspiel

Log A Load For Kids will have an inaugural "FUNspiel" curling event on February 22 to raise funds to benefit Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. This is your chance to learn the sport of curling, have fun and socialize. Teams and individuals are welcome - Register by February 15! Call Becky Holst, Log A Load for Kids Secretary at (218) 624-4790.

## Proper Maintenance Keeps Skidders On Track

We all know equipment maintenance is time well spent and can save money in the long run. However, knowing and doing are two different things. I know I am guilty of this - especially when it comes to my lawn mower.

An article on skidder maintenance, provided by John Deere, was featured recently Logging & Sawmilling Journal. The article provides some good tips and reminders that can also be applied to other pieces of equipment. Proper maintenance is a safety issue as well. Consider sharing and discussing this article at your next monthly safety meeting with your crew. Copies can also be obtained by contacting our office.

[http://www.forestnet.com/LSJissues/sept\\_12/proper\\_maintenance.php](http://www.forestnet.com/LSJissues/sept_12/proper_maintenance.php)



## Wood Yard Safety Video

The Minnesota Logger Education Program, Minnesota Timber Producers Association and Minnesota Forest Industries partnered to produce a Wood Yard Safety Video featuring the Wood Yard Safety Recommendations which have been developed in an effort to increase safety and reduce accidents. Funding for the video was provided in part from a grant from the Forest Resources Association's Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation.

This safety training program consists of a 10 minute video entitled Wood Yard Safety and this training facilitation guide. This program is designed as an introductory safety overview for log truck operators and wood yard employees. The purpose of this program is to provide individuals basic information associated with the delivery and unloading of logs in a wood yard. Each facility will have its own rules and regulations for its property. The recommendations in this video are designed to improve safety, increase awareness, and to the greatest extent possible, standardize safety practices. The intent is to cover broad general situations that could be potentially hazardous or cause injury. This program and video should not be considered all inclusive or exhaustive of all possible topics relating to wood yard safety.

- Wood Yard Safety Video (via You Tube): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVSGVSHL-PU>
- Wood Yard Safety Recommendations: <http://www.mlep.org/documents/woodyardsafety.pdf>
- You can also review the video with your drivers and use the MLEP Safety Training Meeting Report to document your meeting. <http://www.mlep.org/documents/woodyardsafety.pdf>

## Erickson Timber Products, Inc. - Regional Outstanding Logger

Congratulations to Dale Erickson (Erickson Timber Products, Inc) - 2012 Lake States Region Outstanding Logger!

The Forest Resources Association's Lake States Region has recognized Dale Erickson of Erickson Timber Products, Inc. as the Region's 2012 Outstanding Logger.

## DNR Forest Road Safety Channel

In an effort to reduce "hit the ditch" incidents and improve logger, trucker & forester communication - the DNR has established a Forest Road Safety Channel.

- This channel is intended for use by those who use DNR forest roads.
- The frequency is narrowband - 151.497
- The use of the channel is strictly voluntarily. There is no intention of ever making it part of the timber sale contracts.
- There is no charge to use the channel.
- As of right now, there are 11 counties where this can be used (due to other users of the frequency in other parts of the state). Those counties are: Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass and Crow Wing. There are 5 other counties that the DNR is trying to get covered: Roseau, Clearwater, Wadena, Pine & Carlton.
- The channel will be shared with county land departments, USFS foresters, industry foresters, etc. So when loggers are working on other agency sales, they'll all have the option of using it between themselves.
- An authorization form must be filled out by everyone who wishes to use it. Basically just requires a signature and number of radios that will have the channel installed. As of now, they need to be renewed annually. The form can be located here: <http://www.mlep.org/documents/ROADSAFTradiofrequencyuse.pdf>



## FAQ – Federal Income Tax On Time



The Forest Service has put together a quick reference on timber tax laws that are important to woodland owners. It presents a concise and easy-to-understand explanation of the most commonly asked tax questions.

The intended audience includes consulting foresters, woodland owners and loggers who need a basic understanding of federal income tax rules on the management of woodland property. It is also a valuable resource for tax practitioners: CPAs, tax managers, enrolled agents, attorneys, and tax return preparers who seek a quick overview of timber tax rules.

The reference can be found here:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/taxpubfaqs.pdf>

## Onsite Emergency Contact Information

We have heard stories about ambulances that could not reach a site because employees were not aware of the current location. Maybe the crew members remembered yesterday's logging site but had no idea what road intersects what intersection at this new deck they are setting up. Emotions get extremely high when an emergency situation happens on a logging job.

But when you or your employees are trying to relay critical information to emergency responders or 911 call operators, the added stress of not knowing site coordinates or accurate directions to your location can hamper emergency responders from reaching the injured person.

Check out this cheap and easy idea for storing emergency information on site in a highly visible way - a waterproof box on the outside of trucks <http://loggingsafety.com/sites/loggingsafety.com/files/12r27.pdf>

If you are operating in an area with poor cell coverage, you should also note where the closet location is that provides a consistent signal.

## TreezyDoesIt.com

When your kids or grandkids are in school this year, make sure their teachers know about [TreezyDoesIt.com](http://TreezyDoesIt.com). The website provides K-12 teachers free, informative and interactive lessons about our forests, forest products and other topics of interest and includes smartboard apps, academic standards connections and other tools for use in the classroom.

[TreezyDoesIt.com](http://TreezyDoesIt.com) is an educational outreach component of Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI), which for more than 20 years has developed and supplied K-12 teachers with a variety of forest education materials.

## MLEP Mobile Site Is Now Live!

Thanks to the great work of Chris DeRosier - the MLEP mobile website is up and running. Chris has finished modifying the code for the MLEP website so that it automatically redirects tablet and smartphone users to our new mobile site. This mobile version of the website makes it easy to register for training or look up logger contact info directly from a smartphone.

With the substantial increase in loggers using smartphones - this will be a convenient way to get signed up for a workshop. It also makes it easy for landowners to search for a logger via their iPad or iPhone. Check out [www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org) on your smartphone or tablet today and let us know what you think!





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## Upcoming Events

### February

13 – Truck Weight Compliance – St. Cloud

### March

6-7 – Watershed Ditch/Culvert Design – Duluth

26 – DNR-Logger Select – Aitkin

27 – Truck Weight Compliance – Duluth

### April

9 – MLEP Logger Conference – Tower

10 – LogSafe – Tower (OSHA & CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

11 – Road Equipment Seminar – Brainerd

16 – MLEP Logger Conference – Walker

17 – LogSafe – Walker (OSHA & CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

25-26 – Heating the Midwest Biomass  
Conference – Carlton

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