

MLEP TREELINE

Volume 15, Issue 1

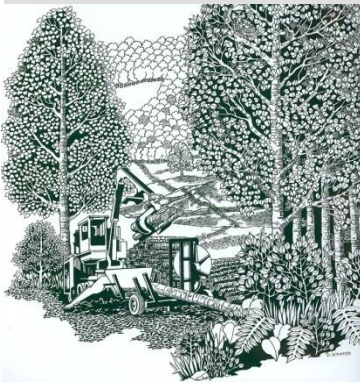
www.mlep.org

Spring 2017



Did You Know:

- One cord of wood can contain as much heat as 250 gallons of LP gas.
- When wood is turned into pulp for paper, heat and chemicals release cellulose fibers. Cellulose is used in cellophane, helmets, toothbrushes, and even photographic film.



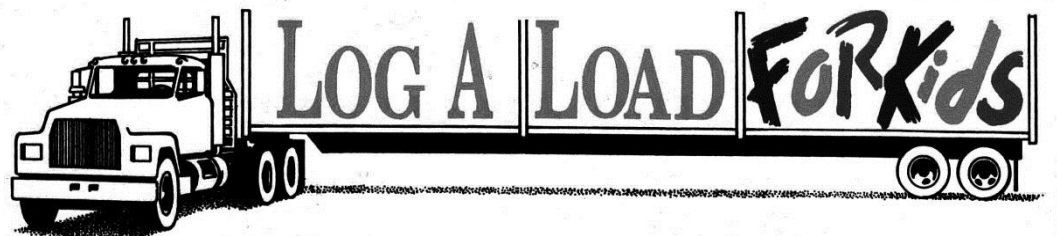
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The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program

Log-A-Load For Kids Charity Banquet

Join us in the evening of April 11th for the First Annual Log A Load for Kids Charity Banquet! All proceeds from the banquet, Dessert for Dreams auction and donations will go directly to Log A Load for Kids in Minnesota to benefit families in need of specialized care through Gillette Children's Specialty Health System. Anyone who has been involved with Log A Load for Kids will tell you that the logging industry is an amazing example of community, generosity and amazing support for the program. Join us to showcase that generosity of spirit and those timber bidding skills in the bid for the best dessert option!



MN SIC Approved MLEP Training in 2017

MLEP has scheduled Minnesota SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC) approved training sessions throughout the state for 2017. Additionally, MLEP will be providing the LogSafe Training curriculum to all qualified logging businesses. All classes are available for registration online at www.mlep.org

MLEP will host our two annual Logger Conferences in April. The Tower Logger Conference will be held at Fortune Bay Resort on April 11th and 12th and the Bemidji Logger Conference will be held at the Sanford Center on April 18th and 19th. Both conferences will include opportunities to interact with vendors. Day one of each conference will "count" for 6 hours of MLEP training and Day two of each conference will "count" for LogSafe training, either CPR/1st Aid or OSHA.

Additional specialized 4-hour OSHA LogSafe courses are scheduled. Look for special sessions to be offered in partnership with Nortrax and Ziegler CAT at their shops. Additionally, there will be two hands-on Chainsaw safety training sessions offered as well. Our goal is to provide timely and relevant training for both MLEP and LogSafe courses. These additions to curriculum should be an interesting change!



Logger Training FAQs - Answered

The questions below are legitimate and it is important to understand the answers. I hope you take a few minutes to read the answers I've listed in an effort to clarify that all training is not created equal and it is important to understand your training choices.

- 1. What's the big deal?** Certification is the big deal. Consumers of wood, paper and other products have demanded that we “prove” we are producing our products in a sustainable manner. That “proof” comes from third party certification programs. There are a number of certification programs out there, but the one that drives training requirements is the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program. SFI has been around for more than 20 years. Most mills and many of the public land bases in Minnesota are certified under SFI. The big difference between SFI and other programs is its commitment to grassroots governance of the program. To this end, SFI has State Implementation Committees (SICs) that control much of what is required at a state level under the program umbrella. Additionally, SFI recognized that education and outreach is one of the primary methods that will promote active sustainable forest management on the ground. One of the core ideas in the SFI program is the use of Qualified Logging and Resource Professionals who are trained to do the right thing for the forest on the ground using BMPs and other scientifically sound practices. To define who is a Qualified Logging Professional, the State Implementation Committees must establish the criteria and identify the delivery mechanisms for logger training courses that address specific concepts related to sustainable forestry, safety and other issues. Mills certified to SFI Fiber Sourcing are required to source wood from trained loggers.
- 2. Minnesota State Implementation Committee Approved Training – What does this mean for you?** This is the only training that meets the MN SIC training requirements for certification. At this time, MLEP training is the only training accepted by the MN SIC. Other states have their own training requirements and training organizations, but Minnesota Loggers who want to harvest sales off certified landbases or sell to certified mills must attend training as approved by the MN SIC.

In 2017, the MN SIC Training Standard indicates that a business owner and/or crew member(s) who “has direct responsibility and is onsite regularly to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the qualified logging professional” must attend:

- a. Safety Training: Twelve (12) hours of safety training every two years (must meet the LogSafe training program requirements)
 - i. 8 hours CPR/1st Aid training
 - ii. 4 hours Safety training (OSHA)
 - b. Continuing Education: Six (6) hours of MLEP training every year through workshops on any accepted continuing education topic.
- 3. Why do you have to take training every year?** Annual training is what many SICs, including the MN SIC, have developed to answer SFI's requirement of continuing education to promote continual improvement in forest operations and in the professionalism of wood producers. LogSafe training in Minnesota is a function of the LogSafe program and its statutory requirements for training every two years.
 - 4. Why can't you just take whatever training you want to take?** You can take whatever training you wish to take. You don't “have to” take any training. If, for example, you harvest only on private land and only sell firewood, you may not be required to take any training. If, however, you wish to bid on state and SFI certified county sales, you will need to meet the MN SIC training requirements as part of the process. If you wish to sell wood to a SFI certified mill, you will also likely have to meet the MN SIC training requirements. Your training needs are based on your customer requirements or the contractual obligations you have to meet for a sale. Not taking the “right” training could impact your ability to do business. Ultimately it is your choice to decide what training, if any, you need to take.

MLEP will continue to offer a variety of training options and topics throughout the state. We hope that the training we offer will provide key topics that are interesting and needed so that you take more than the bare minimum required. Education and training is an excellent opportunity to improve your understanding and can open doors to additional opportunities. If you have any questions about whether the training you want to take will meet MN SIC training requirements, please contact MLEP.



Forest Service To Implement New Stewardship Contracting



The Superior National Forest is currently working towards developing a contract that will serve as a forest-wide tool for integrated vegetation management. The contract will be an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ), which is a type of contract that provides for an unlimited quantity of services during a fixed period of time, up to ten years. The IDIQ will support the Forest Service's authority to utilize stewardship contracting, which is intended to accomplish land management goals while meeting community needs. Under stewardship contracts, commercial goods like timber and biomass can be exchanged for services that restore the health of the forest landscape. These services include, but are not limited to, activities such as site preparation for planting and mechanical fuels reduction. Other activities included under this contract are over-

story removal, pre-commercial thinning, fire line construction, road maintenance, gravel pit establishment/reclamation, landing reclamation, and temporary road building.

The IDIQ stewardship contract will increase the number of acres restored on the Superior and implement decisions resulting from the environmental planning process. This approach will increase contracting efficiency by combining similar activities and reducing repeated mobilization of equipment to treat the same forest stands. The IDIQ contract will supplement other tools used to meet land management goals, it will not replace other forest-wide service contracts or standard timber sale contracts.

The Superior National Forest plans to hold several informational sessions regarding the new IDIQ contract for prospective contractors this spring. Complete information on the bidding process for the IDIQ contract will be provided at these sessions. Additional information will be posted on the Superior National Forest website. Bids will be solicited for the contract during the summer of 2017. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Mark Akesson, Superior National Forest Timber Program Manager, at 218-626-4330 or email makeson@fs.fed.us.

Safety Award Program (SAP) Nominees

Due to feedback that there is an increased need to focus on safety – especially PPE in the woods, MLEP started a [safety awareness program \(MLEP SAP\) in October 2015](#). It is wholly dependent on nominations from foresters and other forestry and industry professionals. This program is designed to promote a positive safety culture in the woods! Nominees will be recognized at our spring conferences and through Facebook and our website. There will be drawings for prizes for the nominees. We have two nominees for 2017 to date:

Shawn Fletcher, Fletcher Trucking

Fletcher Trucking is a nominee based on a recommendation of a field forester who audited some of their jobsites. The forester said, "This operation apparently takes employee safety seriously. This company holds weekly safety tailgate sessions to cover potential hazards to be dealt with that week, monthly safety meetings, and all employees engaged in logging are sent to safety training programs." Tailgate sessions are a great way to keep safety first in the woods!

Allan Weijo, Weijo Logging

Allan was nominated as a result of his Master Logger Certification audit. The auditor said, "Allan was able to readily produce a spill kit, fire extinguisher, and complete first aid kit from his work truck when I met with him; all of which were of good quality and in good repair. A tag on the extinguisher showed that it had been serviced and is "up-to-date" for use. All of this equipment was well organized in his work truck and arranged so that it can be accessed quickly when needed. Allan also demonstrated a very good knowledge of requirements for handling and preventing petroleum or other hazardous material spills." Allan was also praised for his patience with working with the public and nosy neighbors who didn't like that he was cutting trees.

Kudos to both companies for their nominations! The 2017 winner will be announced at our Spring Logger Conferences. Many thanks to all the professionals out there, being our eyes and ears to promote personal and team safety out in the woods!



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Logging Professionalism*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.mlep.org

Upcoming Events March & April 2017

Spring LogSafe Dates/Locations

March

22 – Brainerd (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
23 – Rochester (CPR/1st Aid Only)
28 – Cloquet (CPR/1st Aid Only)
29 – Grand Rapids (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
30 – Two Harbors (CPR/1st Aid Only)
31 – Two Harbors (OSHA Only)

April

4 – Cloquet (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
5 – Palisade (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
6 – Chisholm (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
12 – Tower (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)

April (ctd.)

19 – Bemidji (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
25 – Littlefork (CPR/1st Aid Only)
26 – I Falls (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)
27 – Baudette (CPR/1st Aid & OSHA)

MLEP Logger Conferences

April 11 & 12 – Fortune Bay - Tower
April 18 & 19 – Sanford Center - Bemidji

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