

Forest Activities News

from Oregon OSHA

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Using a chainsaw? Don't forget eye protection

Along with head protection, hearing protection, and leg protection, eye protection is a must-wear item for workers operating chainsaws. That's because of the potential exposure to chips, sawdust, and flying particles.



Mesh screen hardhat/helmet system

Most protective eyewear is lightweight and lenses are typically scratch-resistant and made from optical-grade polycarbonate.

Fog-resistant lenses are also available from many manufacturers.

Chainsaw operators can use either protective eyewear that meets ANSI Z87.1 requirements **or** face protection as long as the face protection covers the eyes.

Logger-type mesh screens can be used with hardhat/helmet systems or approved frames.



Protective eye wear with mesh screen



Protective fog-resistant eye wear

Requirements go into effect July 2014 for older forest activities machines with 360-degree upper-structure rotation

In December 2003, Oregon OSHA adopted Division 7 safety and health rules for forest activities, which included new requirements for all operator protective structures (cabs) on machines manufactured on or after July 1, 2004. The requirements, under [437-007-0775](#), incorporated ISO and SAE standards to help ensure operator protection from materials handled and roll-over/tip-over hazards.

The requirements also said that, by July 2009, the older machines capable of 360-degree, upper-structure rotation must have the same level of protection as newer machines; however, Oregon OSHA later extended the 2009 compliance deadline to 2014 to give affected companies more time to cycle out their older machines.

What happens after the July 1, 2014, deadline?

Machines with 360-degree, upper-structure rotation manufactured before July 2004 must have the same level of protection that [437-007-0775](#) requires for newer machines or they must be limited to:

- Surfaces that are prepared, excavated, or constructed of solid materials with a slope less than 20 percent when handling logs or other materials
- Use as an anchor for a cable-yarding system where there is a clear path of travel and slopes are 40 percent or less

For more information, go to www.orosha.org, Division 7, Subdivision H:

(Click "Logging" on Oregon OSHA's [A-Z Topics](#) webpage.)

- [437-007-0775](#) – Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Manufactured On or After July 1, 2004
- [437-007-0780](#) – Protective Structures for Operators, Machines Used On or After July 1, 2014

The following publication is also informative:

- [Machines used in forest activities: what are the cab requirements?](#)

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New and updated publications for loggers from Oregon OSHA

- ***Crowding the rigging*** – Every year, loggers doing cable yarding are injured or killed because they are standing too close to the turn and rigging. This fact sheet describes how to prevent accidents caused by crowding the rigging. (Two pages) <http://www.orosha.org/pdf/hazards/2993-28.pdf>
- ***Hazard of chain shot in logging*** – High-speed chain-cutting systems on mechanized harvesting and processing machines can expose the operators and others to the potentially lethal hazard of chain shot. (Two pages) <http://www.orosha.org/pdf/hazards/2993-29.pdf>
- ***Safety and health program for forest activities*** – This sample program in English and Spanish helps forest activities employers comply with 437-007-0100, Safety and Health Program, which requires forest activities employers to implement a written safety and health program. (35 pages) <http://www.orosha.org/pdf/pubs/forms/forest-activities-s-h-written-program.pdf>

Click “**Logging**” on Oregon OSHA’s **A-Z Topics** webpage for a complete list of logging-related publications, rules, and training materials. **QUESTIONS?** Call 503-378-3272 in Salem, or 800-922-2689 (toll-free).

Logging Accidents Reported to Oregon OSHA in 2013

Jan. 10, 2013: A rigging crew was sending in a turn of logs when an alder log up-ended and hit the employee in the leg.

Jan. 22, 2013: An employee was having a load of logs removed from his log truck. As he was removing the last wrapper from the load, a log rolled off the top of the load and struck him in the back of the neck, breaking one of his vertebrae.

Jan. 30, 2013: A rigging slinger and choker setter were sending in a turn of logs to the landing when one of the logs struck a stump and upended, striking both of them.

March 2, 2013: A chaser on a cable logging site was crushed when the yarder’s guyline broke and the machine rolled over him.

March 22, 2013: A timber faller was struck in the upper left leg by an oak tree that had barber chaired off of a stump.

March 29, 2013: A choker setter was grabbing a skidding line that was hanging from a carriage. The carriage was running on the mainline, which slacked down without a signal and struck the choker setter.

April 17, 2013: An employee was doing maintenance on a yarder and did not shut off the machine. While he was lubricating grease fittings in the gear box, his hand caught in the drive gears and two fingers were severely cut.

April 26, 2013: A rigging slinger was struck by a falling tree while he was standing near a turn of logs set to return to the carriage on the skyline.

April 30, 2013: A slasher, who was less than two tree lengths away when the feller gave the signal, was struck when he did not move into the clear.

May 9, 2013: An employee was changing brake shoes on a carriage while the motor was running. At the same time, another employee, who was working on the radio control system for the carriage, switched off the control button. This caused the skyline clamp to close crushing the fingers of the employee who was changing the brake shoes.

May 9, 2013: An employee who was falling a small tree downhill, cut his outside holding wood, which caused the tree to fall to the side and break his left leg.