**Logging**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish safety practices for logging and clearing operations.

1. **Work Procedures**

* Employees shall be spaced, and the duties of each employee organized so the actions of one employee will not create a hazard for any other employee.
* Work areas shall be assigned so that trees cannot fall into an adjacent occupied work area.
* The distance between adjacent occupied work areas shall be at least two tree lengths of the trees being felled.
* The distance between adjacent occupied work areas shall reflect the degree of slope, the density of the growth, the height of the trees, the soil structure and other hazards reasonably anticipated at that work site.
* A distance of greater than two tree lengths shall be maintained between adjacent occupied work areas on any slope where rolling or sliding of trees or logs is reasonably foreseeable.
* Each employee performing a logging operation at a logging work site shall work in a position or location that is within visual or audible contact with another employee.

1. **Hand and Power Tools**

* All hand and power tools shall be maintained in serviceable condition.
* Each tool must be inspected before initial use during each work shift.
* All chain saws shall be operated and adjusted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
* Each gasoline-powered chain saw shall be equipped with a continuous pressure throttle control system which will stop the chain when pressure on the throttle is released.
* The chain saw shall be fueled at least 10 feet (3 m) from any open flame or other source of ignition.
* The chain saw shall be started at least 10 feet (3 m) from the fueling area.
* The chain saw shall be started on the ground or where otherwise firmly supported. Drop starting a chain saw is prohibited.

1. **Machinery**

* All machinery shall be maintained in serviceable condition.
* Stationary or mobile logging equipment should be inspected prior to and during use.
* Operating and maintenance instructions must be available on the machine or in the area where the machine is being operated.
* Machinery shall be started and operated only by a designated person.
* Logging equipment must be operated within the limitations as described in the operating and maintenance instructions for that machine on any slope which is greater than the maximum slope recommended by the manufacturer.
* Each machine shall be positioned while winching so the machine and winch are operated within their design limits.
* Each tractor, skidder, swing yarder, log stacker, log loader and mechanical felling device, such as tree shears or feller-buncher shall be equipped with Falling Object Protective Structure (FOPS) and/or Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS). ROPS shall be tested, installed, and maintained in serviceable condition.

1. **Manual Felling**

* Before felling is started, the feller shall plan and clear a retreat path.
* The retreat path shall extend diagonally away from the expected felling line unless the retreat path poses a greater hazard than an alternate path.
* Before each tree is felled, conditions shall be evaluated by the feller and precautions taken so a hazard is not created for an employee.
* A backcut shall be made in each tree being felled.
* An undercut shall be made in each tree being felled unless felling the particular tree without an undercut will not create a hazard for an employee.
* Once the backcut has been made, the feller shall immediately move a safe distance away from the tree on the retreat path.
* No yarding machine shall be operated within two tree lengths of trees being manually felled.
* No employee shall approach a feller closer than two tree lengths of trees being felled until the feller has acknowledged that it is safe to do so, unless a team of employees is necessary to manually fell a particular tree.
* Each danger tree shall be felled, removed or avoided.
* Each danger tree shall be felled or removed using mechanical or other techniques that minimize employee exposure before work is commenced in the area of the danger tree.
* If the danger tree is not felled or removed, it shall be marked and no work shall be conducted within two tree lengths of the danger tree unless a shorter distance will not create a hazard for an employee.

1. **Training**

* Training shall be provided for each employee, including supervisors, at no cost to the employee.
* Training shall be documented to include the name or other identity of the employee trained, the date(s) of the training, and the signature of the person who conducted the training or the signature of the employer.
* Each new employee and shall work under the supervision of a designated experience employee until the new employee can demonstrate the ability to safely perform their new duties independently.