

LOSS CONTROL

Information Bulletin

COMPLACENCY-STORM DAMAGE TIMBER

Any work related injury or accident should prompt you to immediately rethink your safety training procedure, especially while working in storm damage timber. This type operation is different than the everyday logging operation that your employees are normally performing. Most workers in the woods have not handled down and salvageable trees before and more likely to be injured. If you harvest storm damage and have reviewed safety procedures with your employees, it is time to do it again before they become complacent with their job. Please, review these safety procedures again with your employees.

- 1. Never work alone in windblown timber.**
- 2. Do not walk or work under unstable windblown trees or root plates.**
- 3. Establish safe access and egress on the worksite.**
- 4. Whenever practicable you should work from butt to tip.**
- 5. Maintain a buffer distance of at least two tree lengths from tree felling areas (300 feet for high speed disk saws).**
- 6. Always make eye contact with equipment operators, signal your intentions to approach, and approach only when it is safe to do so.**
- 7. Wear your personal protective equipment at all times while on the ground. This includes hard hats, chaps, eye protection and highly visible clothing.**
- 8. Do not operate chain saw above shoulder height.**
- 9. When walking in the woods, scan ahead at least 50 feet on the ground and 100 feet ahead for all overhead hazards.**
- 10. While using a chain saw to down trees, be aware of kick backs and limbs falling from other trees. Have an escape route planned.**
- 11. When the partially broken top of the tree is in contact with the ground, cut away the top where it comes into contact with the ground and any accessible branches.**
- 12. Fell the upright section of the stem using normal felling techniques. The felling direction should be at right angles to the broken portion.**

December 2004