

VLA

VA Loggers Association Newsletter



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VDOT LAND USE PERMITS: A CRUCIAL ELEMENT FOR LOGGING OPERATIONS PLANNING

The safety of the traveling public, employees and contractors working within highway right-of-way is a shared responsibility, which is why obtaining proper land use permits are essential as you plan your next logging operation.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the logging industry have a long standing relationship dating back more than half a century. Over time, VDOT has adjusted its permit requirements to reduce costs related to permit fee and bonding requirements. The current Land Use Permit Regulations, adopted in 2010, authorizes not only the issuance of site specific "single-use" permits for the installation of temporary logging entrances but also offers "district-wide" permits which cover multiple temporary logging entrances throughout a VDOT construction district. A district may be all counties within the jurisdiction of a VDOT construction district or nine (9) contiguous counties that may cross multiple VDOT construction districts.

VDOT has developed specific work zone safety training for logging industry employees that provides instruction for implementation of minimum traffic control measures as outlined in the Virginia Work Area Protection Manual and guidance on obtaining flagger certification. VDOT appreciates the logging industry's participation in this training and encourages the development of self-monitoring programs and similar efforts that increase competencies related to VDOT permitting and highway safety requirements. These best-management practices lead to increased compliance and create an atmosphere of partnership between the logging industry and VDOT in providing for the safety of all highway users.



Reducing crashes, injuries and deaths on Virginia highways requires commitment by industry, permit holders and multiple government agencies, including law enforcement officials. Providing the traveling public with timely information about upcoming roadway conditions is a critical factor in enhancing highway safety and the logging industry's role is to notify the local VDOT permit office of impending activities.

To find out more about obtaining a land use permit, or to apply online, and information regarding available safety training, visit VDOT's Land Use Permits page or contact Keith Goodrich at (804) 786-0759 or e-mail at: Keith.Goodrich@vdot.virginia.org.

KEITH GOODRICH is a technical specialist with the Office of Land Use at VDOT. He administers the issuance of district-wide land use permits, and provides regulatory interpretation and guidance relating to utility accommodations, land surveying operations and timber harvesting activities on state maintained highways.

VLA

Newsletter

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

THANK YOU FOR RECENTLY JOINING THE VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

Putting our members first and proudly serving the interests of Virginia loggers!

ABBOTT FARM & LUMBER, INC.
ROCKY MOUNT, VA

GREIF PACKAGING, LLC
AMHERST, VA

AMERICAN LOGGERS INSURANCE/SANTEE RISK MANAGERS
BANGOR, ME

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CLIFTON, VA

ASHLEY LOGGING CO., INC. (RETURNING MEMBER)
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SANDY CREEK INVESTMENT, LLC
AMELIA COURT HOUSE, VA

BUCK WOODS, LLC
GASBURG, VA

TRIPLE C LOGGING, LLC
MADISON HEIGHTS, VA

DAVID BENNETT OF DAVID BENNETT LOGGING, LLC
COVINGTON, VA

VA LOGGERS
HIGHLAND SPRINGS, VA

FINCH LOGGING, LLC (RETURNING MEMBER)
SOUTH HILL, VA

Executive Director's Corner



Ron Jenkins
Executive Director

The 14th annual conference for the Virginia Loggers Association will hopefully be remembered a long time for the great hospitality of Hotel Roanoke's staff, interesting and knowledgeable speakers, and fantastic fellowship. Thirty five companies and individuals contributed additional financial support to the conference resulting in additional benefits and lower costs for everyone. We are so grateful to all who sponsored our 14th annual conference!

We also hope our conference inspired you to join us in 2017 and to invite other members. Please mark a place holder in your calendar now for next year. Soon we'll send out more details about our 15th annual meeting.



IMPORTANT 2016 DATES

September 29 - October 1

ALC 22nd Annual Meeting, Panama City, FL

October 4

SHARP Logger Annual Logger Day, Alberta, VA

October 19-21

Southern Forest Products Association 2016 Annual Meeting
Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

October 21, 28, & November 4

SHARP Logger Training, West Point, VA area

October 22 9 AM-1 PM

VLA Board of Directors, Scottsville, VA

December 5

SHARP Logger Annual Logger Day, Halifax, VA

| October | | | | | | | November | | | | | | | December | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| | | | | 29 | 30 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

MOVING EQUIPMENT IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR LOGGING BUSINESS.



Virginia Loggers Association Members: Binky Tapscott, Vance Wright and J. H Fitzgerald, Jr.

Before any work begins, logging firms must move skidders, loaders, feller-bunchers, and a lot more equipment to the logging site to harvest trees and haul raw materials to markets. Hauling permits must be obtained through the Depart-

ment of Motor Vehicles before hauling equipment. Sometimes the approval process may take up to ten days, especially for super-loads. Members of the Virginia Loggers Association and owners of logging and trucking businesses, along with representatives from the rigging and crane business, Virginia Trucking Association and Virginia Forestry Association met with state officials from the Department of Motor Vehicles and Virginia Department of Transportation to

discuss ways to streamline the approval process for obtaining these permits. Everyone left with a positive feeling that we could find some helpful short term solutions. We also discussed long range plans to fully automate these processes in a few years.



AN EXPERIENCE-DRIVEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY

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NEWS AND HAPPENINGS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Here are two true and closely-related statements: Loggers are conservationists—no one better appreciates and values Virginia's forests. Loggers are businessmen and businesswomen—they carefully evaluate expenses, costs, prices and revenues to make their businesses successful. The Department of Forestry offers three specific programs for loggers that should help achieve success with both. The programs use public funds to assist loggers with practices that benefit them, landowners and that provide greater public benefit—a win for all. All three are delivered by VDOF area foresters or water quality specialists with a one-page application. The highlights of each are below, and DOF staffers have the full details.

LOGGER PINE THINNING COST-SHARE PROGRAM

- Commercial thinning of small-acreage pine stands (5 acres -25 acres). Incentive to help cover fixed costs with moving and working on small tracts; rate of 50 percent up to \$2,000. Designed to promote health and prevent pine bark beetle outbreaks.
- Funded by U. S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Southern Pine Beetle Program.
- Logger Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-Share Program (*note: there's a waiting list for this popular program*)
- For installation of BMPs for stream crossings in impaired waters or watersheds of special interest, including culverts, seeding, stabilization or to assist with purchase of portable bridge; rate of 50 percent up to \$2,500, or 50 percent up to \$5,000 if the project includes a portable bridge. The purpose is to improve and protect water quality.
- Funds through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Water Quality Improvement Fund.
- Forestry Quail Habitat Recovery Cost-Share Program
- For forest road/trail seeding and stabilization using seed mixes that would benefit quail on areas where harvesting has occurred; rate of 60 percent up to \$100 per acre. Available in 15 counties focused for quail recover (Augusta, Bland, Culpeper, Essex, Greene, Greenville, Halifax, King and Queen, King William, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock, Southampton, Sussex, Wythe)
- Funds through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.



A strong logging force is an essential part of managing healthy, productive and valuable forests.

These programs are designed to promote healthy resources and healthy businesses. Contact your local VDOF office to get started.



UPDATE ON FOREST OPERATIONS PROJECTS

Scott Barrett

Extension Specialist – Forest Operations

and Coordinator for the VA SHARP Logger Program

Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation

It was great to see many of you again at the annual meeting in Roanoke. For those of you that saw my presentation, I gave an overview of several different research projects that I am involved with. Many of these projects have involved loggers and logging businesses. Without the help and support that I get from Virginia's loggers, many of these projects would not be possible.

As several of the speakers at the meeting highlighted, the forest industry in Virginia has a big impact on Virginia's economy. Forest harvesting and other forest management activities help to shape Virginia's forests over vast portions of the Commonwealth. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry's 2015 State of the Forest Report (http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/_sof/SOF-2015_pub.pdf) there are more than 5400 timber harvests on over 245,000 acres per year. The work that loggers do on these sites can have benefits for all Virginians. For example, we can all benefit from clean water which is protected by implementation of Best Management Practices on harvest sites. We currently have several VA Tech Forest Operations studies that are evaluating the extent and type of harvests and forest products utilization across Virginia, as well as ways to minimize the impacts of forest harvesting.

Those that attended the annual meeting also learned more about TEAM Safe Trucking. I am excited to be a part of this and to work on a project with this group. I will have a graduate student at Virginia Tech that will be working with the TEAM Safe Trucking group to identify the characteristics of log truck accidents, highlight the common types of accidents that occur and then work on ways to reduce log truck accidents and improve log trucking safety. Results of this project will be used for logger training programs such as the SHARP Logger program as well as for publications and presentations, so that hopefully we can effectively work together as a group to communicate ways for improving log truck safety. While there are many different groups within the forest industry that have their own interests it is important to also keep in mind that we are all in the same boat and can often share many of the same common goals. This is a great example of a group coming together to work on a common issue.

As results from these projects are finalized I'll be making them available through this newsletter column, through our SHARP Logger trainings and through the SHARP Logger website. I appreciate the support that Virginia's loggers have provided to make many of these projects possible. I am always open to ideas and suggestions for ways that we can work together to accomplish more. So if you ever have suggestions or ideas for things we can do to work together, just let me know. I look forward to working with you in the future and sharing results of these and other projects.



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AS WE SEE IT: ADAPT, CHANGE, OVERCOME

As I look at our Logging Profession, I reflect on the change through the years. Remember when you knew in January the product you would be cutting and the price you would be paid for the next 12 months? Remember when that changed to six months, three months, monthly and even weekly? As a southern logger, I have seen the change from the chain saw felling days and cable skidding equipment to fully mechanized operations. Along with these changes came lower worker compensation insurance costs and reduced chain saw accidents.

While it has been a very interesting 40 plus years of change, there has also been a great deal of improvement in the utilization of forest products, to a point any waste is almost human error. During this time, the forest products industry has worked through performance and efficiency issues at mills while local markets have evolved into world markets, thus requiring us to operate under a whole new set of rules.

Who would have ever thought that truck drivers would be at higher risk than woods workers as related to workers compensation insurance costs? Who would have ever thought that equipment to harvest timber would come with the current price tags on it? Or be as operator friendly, ergonomically comfortable, and productive as it is today.

During all these industry adjustments, we have seen trade policies debated, a changing U.S. dollar, mills shuttered as well as laws enacted by Congress that have had far reaching effects on our industry. Our adjustment as loggers is we have learned to operate wiser and leaner. Logging professionals have learned to become advocates for our industry by telling our story. We must not sit back and complain, but offer up solutions for the array of problems we face.

The only thing consistent in our Industry is change. We can accept change and with it, take advantage of the situations and opportunities we find ourselves in, or we can be left sitting and wondering what the tag number was on that truck that ran over us. The logging and forest products industry has always adapted—we will continue to adapt.

The American Loggers Council exists to help us transition through some of these changes. We are taking a greater role in both regulatory and logging and trucking safety issues, and have set a goal of having the logging industry disappear from the top "2" list for the most dangerous occupations by the year 2021.

You can help us to achieve those goals by being active. Adapt, change, and overcome.

Ken Martin is the current President of the American Loggers Council and owns and operates MarCal, Inc. based out of Mendenhall, Mississippi.

The American Loggers Council is a 501 (c)(6) not for profit trade organization representing professional timber harvesters in 32 states across the United States. If you would like to learn more about the ALC, please visit their web site at www.amloggers.com, or contact their office at 409-625-0206.



LOG-A-LOAD FOR KIDS

VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION



Nikki Robertson

State Chairman
Log-A-Load Foundation
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VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE HOTEL ROANOKE & ENJOYED BY MANY

IF YOU MISSED THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE, MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR AUGUST 2017 AND PLAN TO JOIN US!

Success is sweet when people are happy and love what they are doing. Planning for our 14th annual meeting started almost one year ago with the selection of the Hotel Roanoke for the facility. The year long journey slowly came together as the details took shape and our registration grew longer. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our success. We had great fun, networked a lot and learned so much.

Hotel Roanoke was a great venue for the Virginia Loggers Association's 14th annual meeting. Located within reasonable driving distance to almost all of our members, the facility staff made our stay perfect.

It is hard to pick one favorite thing about the conference, so let's look at the many facets of our 14th conference throughout this article. If you attended this conference, we thank you and hope you enjoyed everything. If you see ways to improve our future conferences, please send us a note or call us.

If you didn't attend, please consider doing so in 2017. These conferences provide great speakers, SHARP Logger continuing educational credits, legislative contacts, and a whole lot more! So, come along and read the rest of the story about the conference as everything unfolded over August 25 through 28th.

Your board of directors constantly works to build important relationships for our logging industry. They invited the Board of Forestry to hold their August meeting with us at the Hotel Roanoke. The State Forester accepted our offer on behalf of the BOF and on Thursday August 25, the Virginia Loggers Association Board of Directors hosted a social and dinner for the members of the Board of Forestry, the State Forester and a few of its executive staff.



(Top) Senator William Stanley addressed VLA & Board of Forestry
(Bottom) Awards Banquet Well Attended by Members

The evening was really great because it was the right opportunity for the logging industry representatives to meet the Governor's advisory appointees and state forestry officials. Building mutual understanding and respect was definitely accomplished and we hope many new friendships will result.

During the meeting, everyone got to talk a little about their business challenges as well as opportunities. We've received really great comments from everyone. Also, Senator Bill Stanley gave the group some insights and perspectives on forestry and its importance. He also strongly pointed out the importance of advocating for ourselves and getting to know our elected officials. Politicians listen to their constituents and if we're active in that way, we have a better chance of making our industry that much stronger. Senator Stanley definitely shared his support of logging in Virginia and encouraged us to stay active in the political arena too.

FRIDAY:

While the board of forestry was meeting in the Buck Mountain room, our logging representative Frank Myers talked about our challenges to the board members. Frank has good rapport with the board members and carries the torch for all loggers.

Registration started picking up early Friday morning as registered guests started picking up their packets and name badges. Fifteen of our 35 sponsors this year also set up their exhibits in the Crystal/Roanoke foyer where every guest would see their goods and services. This was also great for everyone. Our meeting room was next door and the layout was perfect for everyone to easily attend the meetings and visit with the sponsor/exhibitors. Please see our sponsor page listing all of the sponsors for our conference!



(Top) VLA ladies having fun and being creative at the free flower workshop



(Middle) Directors of VLA members and BOF enjoy Thursday Evening Social and Dinner



(Bottom) Legislative reception Friday Evening

THANK YOU!!



VT New Department Head Jay Sullivan welcomed everyone to the 14th annual conference. Jay gave a warm introduction from VT which has an excellent forestry department. Jay set the right tone about the importance of the industry and Virginia's forests.

Every information session offered continuing educational credits towards the SHARP logger program and the Society of American Foresters certified forester programs.



Robert Freed, attorney with Freed & Associates, PC, presented important information on business successional planning. His topics included important questions. How do I pick the right entity for my logging business, tree farm, or related business? Should I own the business or should an entity own the business? If an entity which one? How do these choices affect taxes? How do I protect my business from my creditors? What do I do if I have a partner? Child who is active in the business with other children who are not (is equal always fair)? An ex-spouse? A hostile partner? How do I protect a child who will own the business from his or her future ex-spouse and creditors? How does all of this affect my estate tax? When I die, how does my family hold the IRS at bay? Do I pass my business down or sell it?



Virginia Trucking Association President Dale Bennett spoke to us about the latest trucking regulations and the importance of these upon our logging industry. Dale serves on several advisory boards and is a real expert on state and federal laws dealing and deals with all sorts of trucking issues.

Dale's presentation tied closely with other speakers and topics regarding our industry. Electronic logs were part of his discussion. If you did not attend this meeting, please look into the regulations developed around ELDs now. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is ready to enact change requiring Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs). During the first two years, there will be three ways to keep track of hours: on paper, with grandfathered automatic onboard recording devices, and with ELDs. Carriers that use paper logs will have to plug in ELDs at the end of two years, but those that use AOBDRs or pre-rule ELDs will have another two years to bring their systems into compliance with the mandate.



Wayne Davis, Deputy Director of DMV Motor Carrier Size and Weight Services, talked about their many trucking projects and potential legislation. Wayne heads up the section that issues our overweight forest products permit and equipment hauling. Wayne provides important assistance to loggers and contract haulers on Virginia's permit process.



Senior Trooper Scott Parsons gave his popular overview of the Motor carrier laws. Scott covered the following items: CDL requirements, Medical Card Requirements, Seat belts/Cell Phones, DOT Inspection Procedure, Load Securement (Product Specific Load securement) and Hazmat Requirements.



State Forester Bettina Ring gave a great presentation on Virginia forests. Bettina described the Reforestation of Timberlands program and the effect that full funding would bring to reforestation. She also praised the

Commonwealth and the logging industry for the excellent progress on water quality and silvicultural activities. Bettina also gave high compliments to the good work carried out by Virginia loggers.



Crad Jaynes, President of the South Carolina Timber Producers, gave an informative and exciting presentation about advocating for your business. As key members of the Virginia logging industry, everything we do is under a microscope by the public. We've got to do everything possible to make sure our image is always positive and without flaw. And, we even have to do more to ensure that our voice is heard in the right places. We must come to know our elected officials at every level of government, and continually tell our story until they know it as well as us! Crad's message highlighted the theme of our meeting by reminding us of our role in the process.



Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry Todd Haymore provided a keynote address about Virginia's agriculture & forestry market capacity. He pointed out ways we can take advantage of the very large global markets outside the boundaries of the United States.

Governor McAuliffe, as well as previous Governors, have chosen Todd to be instrumental in leading the Commonwealth towards becoming the leading eastern state exporter of agricultural and forestry products grown in Virginia. More world trade offices have been opened and Todd has travelled extensively to sell Virginia forest products. The Office of the Secretary also serves two state agencies with the capability of helping our business owners reach out to the global market.

More will come from your association in the future on helping you navigate the export markets and improve your bottom line. If you have questions now, please feel free to contact Charlie Becker, Department of Forestry or Caitlin Clark, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, or contact the Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry.



Jimmie Locklear spoke about the importance of trucking safety and the emerging and frightening trends in our industry. The Team Safe Truck power point presentation created an awareness of the issues related to the transportation of raw forest products from the woods to the mills. A nation-wide driver shortage, insurance concerns, public perception, governmental compliance and legal issues are threatening the profitability and sustainability of this critical segment of the forest industry. A heightened awareness and acceptable truck driver standards must be the first steps taken to begin the process of resolving these concerns.



Saturday morning's information session was capped off with updates from Dr. Scott Barrett. Scott shared updates from the SHARP Logger program and also updated everyone on the latest research efforts from Virginia Tech forest operations' projects.

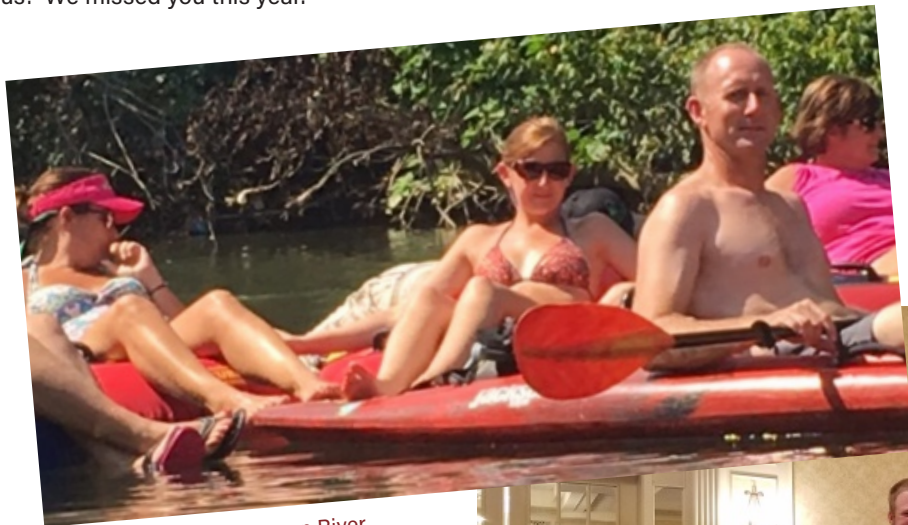
Scott provided great updates on Virginia's harvesting and the exciting efforts with some ergonomics research with logging professionals. Two of his students also attended the Saturday morning session. Virginia Loggers Association and Virginia Tech are committed to greater collaboration.

MEMBERS AT THE CONFERENCE HAVING A GREAT TIME!

HAVING FUN TOO!

Oh yeah, some "snuck" off to enjoy the beautiful Saturday afternoon after the morning information sessions to raft the Roanoke River.

President Vance Wright enjoyed his birthday with many friends. Sorry we missed the fun Vance! Hope you had a great birthday! Each year we seek places where families can get together and have some fun along with the activities. So next year mark your calendars in August and join us! We missed you this year.



Vance Wright and others on River

Chris Huff and Susan Seward dressed up for the Mardi gras this year but took time out for a great photo-up! Your colors are perfect!



Senator William Stanley (SD 20) & Board Members Frank Myers, Chad Shelton & Travis Myers



Scott McKee, Ann & Bill Wood, Blue Ridge Logging
Bill Wood has been logging since he was a young boy and still loves it. Forestry Mutual Insurance picked Bill Wood as their 2016 Logger of the Year. Way to go Bill!! Hope to see you next year.



(Left) Vance Wright presents Frank with President's Award, enjoying a laugh
(Right) Chad Shelton, Frank Myers & Vance Wright



C.K. Green, Amy Carr, Kennedy Green & Savannah Green

GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE BUDGET AMENDMENT AUGUST 2016



(Left) Governor McAuliffe and Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry Todd Haymore. (Right) Governor McAuliffe receives instruction on operating the DOF fire dozer!

Governor Terry McAuliffe announces two major budget amendments for the Department of Forestry and the forestry community. Governor McAuliffe was joined by Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry Todd Haymore at the Augusta Forestry Center, the Department of Forestry's oldest tree seedling nursery, to make the announcement. The Governor is proposing to fully match the forest products tax receipts and give the Reforestation of Timberlands Act a big boost. Next, the Governor is proposing in his budget to fund the replacement of emergency response equipment and vehicles for the Department. The second amendment will assure safer and more reliable equipment for the Commonwealth's forest fire fighters.

AWARDS BANQUET



(Top) Forestry Mutual members receiving the Platinum award during Saturday event's Awards Banquet

(Bottom Left) Carmen Smith and daughter Dee Dee Simpson enjoying the Virginia Tech "Rocker" Action Item

(Bottom Right) VT Corn Hole Game was donated by Buck & Cheryl Morris. James River Equipment toy truck, Skidder & Cutter. Buck owns and operates Glen Morris & Son Logging, Inc in Unionville, VA

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SAFETY IN STRAPPING LOADS

Safety is a key factor in our daily lives. As we get older, sometimes simple acts of movement can create a situation that can lead to injuries. Such is the case with several drivers across the Southeastern states. We have experienced a larger number of claims involving truck drivers injuring their shoulders while throwing straps across their loads.

There is a huge amount of responsibility and liability based upon the driver's decisions and actions. So when it comes to a simple task of throwing a strap, why has there been an increase in injuries? And why are the folks suffering these injuries in their 40's, 50's and 60's? One thing that we need to understand is that what we did in our youth is not always simple anymore. So let us look at the dynamics of throwing a strap and why so many of the drivers are experiencing rotator cuff tears.

Once the load of logs, lumber, machinery, or equipment is completed, the next step is to secure the load. If you are chaining equipment, one of the most important issues is the weight of the chains and binders. Chain weight for grade 8 and higher chain can be between 1 and 7 pounds per foot based on the link diameter. For example, 3/8" Grade 80 Alloy Chain weighs in at a hefty 3.0 pounds per linear foot and 5/8" Grade 80 Alloy Chain weighs in at 3.5 pounds per square foot. Similarly, a 20-foot chain will weigh 60 and 70 pounds respectively. While we have some injuries when chain is used to secure logging equipment to Lowboy trailers it is rare since most drivers do not throw the heavy chain overhanded like a pitcher. Most often they drag it across the equipment or have the loader operator pick up the chain and place it over the load.

However, we have seen increasing numbers of shoulder injuries when it comes to strapping log loads. Straps normally weigh around 3 to 6 pounds each depending on the attachment provided. Straps with buckles weigh in at 4.5 pounds for a 27-foot strap compared to 6 pounds with a strap with a chain end. This weight if you try to throw it high over the logs, contributes to tearing your rotator cuff.

-JJ Lemire



The majority of injuries involving rotator cuff tears require surgery. For some it is the only option to correcting the tear. Besides the surgery, you must factor in 6-8 months of therapy as well. The recovery is long and tedious with physical therapy required to return you to a place where you will not re-injure your shoulder. The costs are large and can cost your employer and insurance carrier over 90 thousand dollars.

When investigating these claims, we discovered that the majority of the claims were drivers throwing the straps overhanded. You add in their age and the risk for an injury increased. One of the recommendations we make is to swing it and throw it underhanded like a soft ball pitcher. Another recommendation is that the loader operator can pick up the strap and place it across the load of logs similar to how they do it when you have a heavy chain.

So throw the straps underhanded to reduce your chance of an injury.

Accidents can be prevented. Lowering risk through safety awareness reduces the chance of an accident. Taking the time to hold safety briefings with your trucking employees will demonstrate your concern for them.

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lations, posted roads and bridges, negative public image, and more.
All of which is threatening the sustainability of the crucial trucking
component.

TEAM Safe Trucking (TST), a new, non-profit organization, is develop-
ing a program designed to help turn the transportation dilemma
around. The goal: a higher, safer standard through better training
and greater accountability.

Join TST on Facebook for more information and updates. Get behind
the wheel and support/promote the TST initiative. There is lots of
work to do.

**Contact Rick Quagliaroli: rick@swampfoxagency.com, 843-761-3999;
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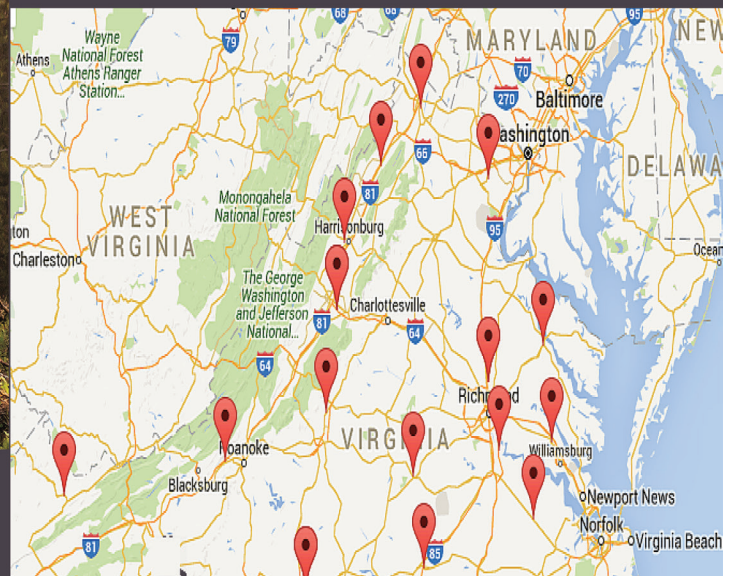
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