

# MLEP TREELINE

Volume 8, Issue 2

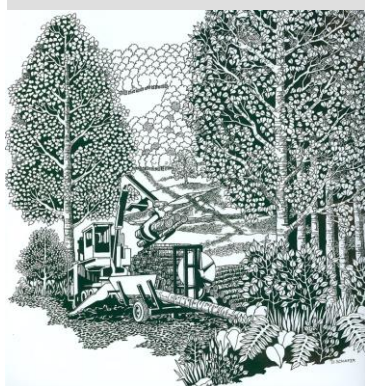
[www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org)

Summer/Fall 2010



## Did You Know:

- Reading a newspaper has a lower impact on global warming than reading the news online for 30 minutes.
- Some 1.5 billion trees are planted in the U.S. every year, about 5 trees for every American.



## Individual Highlights:

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*The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program*

## Is Your LogSafe Rebate Getting Smaller?

The LogSafe rebate is funded by an assessment on industry. Minnesota Statutes 176.130 imposes an assessment, at the rate of 30 cents per cord of wood, for every cord or equivalent measurement of wood in excess of 5,000 cords, purchased or acquired in any calendar year, either inside or outside the state, by a wood mill located in Minnesota.

The statute also defines a "wood mill" as the primary processors of wood or wood chips including, but not limited to, hard board manufacturers, wafer board or oriented strand board manufacturers, pulp and paper manufacturers, sawmills, and other primary manufacturers who do the initial processing of wood purchased from loggers.

MLEP believes this definition of a "wood mill" would include facilities that process roundwood and/or wood chips into energy. However, a review of DLI records shows that these entities are not paying the assessment. That means a smaller rebate check for loggers.

It shouldn't matter if a load of wood chips is being used to make OSB, paper or heat and power. Any primary processors of wood or wood chips, in excess of 5,000 cords or equivalent, should be paying the assessment.

Until DLI starts collecting this assessment from these entities, your rebate check is likely to shrink and the traditional forest products industry will be at a disadvantage when competing for wood against other entities that are paying the assessment.

## Input Requested on Landing Size

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is looking for input on the size of a landing area required in order to ensure a safe environment for equipment operators and truckers. The current guidelines state, "Plan roads and landings to occupy no more than 1-3% of the timber harvest area."

Please complete a very short three question survey on this issue. Surveys can be found at <http://www.mlep.org/documents/questionslandingsurvey.doc> or by calling the MLEP office. Completed surveys should be emailed to Dave Chura ([dchura@mlep.org](mailto:dchura@mlep.org)) or to the MLEP office by Wednesday, September 15, 2010. If you have any questions regarding the survey, you can contact Dave Chura at 218-722-5442 or Rob Slesak at 651-603-6756.



## 4 New Master Loggers and 14 Logging Businesses Recertified

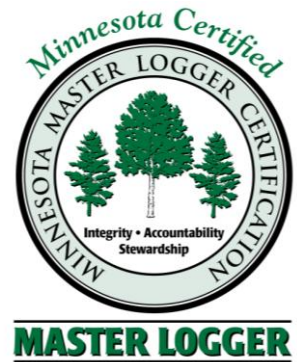
The Minnesota Master Logger Certification Board met on July 1st and approved the certification of 4 new companies and the recertification of 14 Minnesota Certified Master Loggers. This brings the total number of Master Loggers in Minnesota to 50. Congratulations to:

### New Minnesota Certified Master Loggers

Edin Logging, Inc. – Staples  
K Company Logging, Inc. – Princeton  
Northland Timber Co./Don Gross & Sons – Blackduck  
Wood Chip of Princeton, Inc. – Princeton

### Recertifications

Andy Michalek Logging, Inc. – Blackduck	McCabe Forest Products, Inc. – Duluth
B & B Logging of Aitkin, LLC – Aitkin	Patzoldt Brothers, Inc. – Pine City
Douglas Hustad Logging – Gilbert	Rieger Logging, Inc. – Northome
Filipiak Logging, LLC – Cohasset	Rice River Logging – McGregor
Haley Logging Company – Bigfork	Richard Dukek Logging, Inc. – Bagley
Knaeble Timber, Inc. – Northome	Rum River Harvesting – Onamia
M & R Chips, Inc. – Grand Rapids	Craig Turnboom – Meadowlands
M & S Timber – Hinckley	



To learn more about the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program, or to apply, visit [www.mlep.org/mmlc.htm](http://www.mlep.org/mmlc.htm) or call 218-722-5442.

## 2009 Forest Management Guideline Monitoring Implementation Report Now Available

This report provides results for monitoring which occurred in 2009 and attempts to assess trends in implementation levels over time. In 2009, 88 sites were randomly selected from timber harvests that occurred during 2007-2008 and evaluated for guideline implementation. The distribution of sites among the primary ownership categories was in proportion to the volume of timber harvested from each. The forest land ownership categories are state, federal, county, forest industry, and non-industrial private (NIPF, including tribal lands, utilities, and non-profit organizations).

Overall implementation of the guidelines was similar to previous reports and is impressively high given the voluntary nature of the guidelines.



The report can be viewed online at the Minnesota Forest Resources Council website at [http://www.frc.state.mn.us/documents/council/site-level/MNDNR\\_FMG\\_monitoring\\_2009\\_report.pdf](http://www.frc.state.mn.us/documents/council/site-level/MNDNR_FMG_monitoring_2009_report.pdf) or by contacting the MLEP office.



## 2011 and 2012 LogSafe Training Brought to You By....?

After careful consideration, MLEP has made the difficult decision to not submit a proposal in response to the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI) request for proposals (RFP) to deliver LogSafe training in 2011 & 2012.

MLEP believes we have made significant improvement to the LogSafe training experience and that we are the organization best suited for administering the design and delivery of safety training for loggers. Unfortunately, the limited scope and budget allocated in the RFP is insufficient to deliver the high quality, interactive training loggers deserve.

A copy of the letter MLEP sent to DLI Commissioner Steve Sviggum informing him of our decision details our concerns with the RFP appears below.

Hopefully, future RFPs will address these concerns and we can look forward to having the opportunity to deliver LogSafe training again in the future.



### Minnesota Logger Education Program

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July 30, 2010

Commissioner Steve Sviggum  
MN Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road N.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4307

Dear Commissioner Sviggum:

I am writing to let you know MLEP has made the difficult decision to not submit a proposal in response to the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI) request for proposals (RFP) to contract logger safety training per *Minnesota Statutes* §176.130.

As you know, MLEP has provided this training since 2009 through a contract with DLI. This contractual relationship between DLI and MLEP was in response to the recommendations detailed in the 2008 Final Report of the Vital Forests/Vital Communities Continuing Education of Forestry Professionals Task Force (of which then Deputy Commissioner Michael Houliston was a member). In that report, the task force recommended DLI should deliver safety training for loggers through MLEP.

When I met with you on January 2, 2009 to discuss such a partnership, I shared a detailed budget requesting \$85,500 per year to deliver the training. Ultimately, it was agreed that DLI and MLEP would split the appropriated \$125,000 evenly for 2009 and 2010. In doing so, it is my recollection that we agreed to this amount with the understanding that DLI and MLEP would review the actual delivery costs in the future to determine if this budget level was appropriate.



## LogSafe Letter *(Continued From Page3)*

I had a conference call scheduled with Patricia Todd for June 22, 2010 to discuss MLEP's interest in continuing our training delivery relationship with DLI and the process/timeline for doing so. On June 21, 2010, the day before our meeting, I was surprised to receive an email from Ed LaFavor stating, "Today the Minnesota Dept of Labor & Industry published in the Minnesota State Register a request for proposals for logger safety training. If you are interested, please look at the June 21, 2010 state register on page 1848".

In the RFP, DLI has limited the cost of this contract to not exceed \$62,500 per year, for a 2-year period. It is unfortunate DLI never inquired about the actual cost of delivering the training in 2009 before publishing this RFP. I had hoped to have that discussion during the June 22 conference call. MLEP's actual cost for delivering the LogSafe training in 2009 was \$82,340.05 (quite close to our original budget projection of \$85,500). The approximately \$20,000 difference was made up using grant dollars from the Blandin Foundation awarded specifically for implementing the recommendations from the Vital Forests/Vital Communities Continuing Education of Forestry Professionals Task Force final report.

MLEP became interested in providing LogSafe training because of longstanding concerns about the quality of some of the training offered through the DLI. Those concerns, as presented for many years to the LogSafe Advisory Committee, included overcrowded training classes, inadequate number of training manikins to allow sufficient hands-on training, and courses which didn't address changes in technology and mechanization levels.

MLEP was awarded \$62,500 in 2009 and in 2010 to provide OSHA and CPR classroom training. During that time (2009 and Spring 2010), we conducted 30 OSHA workshops and 41 CPR/First-Aid Workshops - providing training to 2,012 participants using instructors from Mesabi Range Community and Technical College and other entities. We were able to address concerns expressed in "feedback" from participants about the DLI training and scored relatively high evaluations through our programs. Further, the following benefits were realized:

- **One-stop-shopping for loggers registering for continuing education training.** Loggers only needed to contact one organization (MLEP) to register for all the state required continuing education and safety training. In addition to the logger safety training requirements under Minn. Stat. 176.130, loggers must complete and maintain the continuing education offered by MLEP to operate on state timber sales as per Minn. Stat. 90.145 Subd.1 (d).
- **Safety training compliance – specific to each logger.** While MLEP has provided LogSafe training in 2009 and 2010, participants received an individualized mailing that includes the specific training requirements they need to complete to meet the 12 hours of required training over a two-year period and stay current with their OSHA required CPR/First aid certification. For example, for a logger who completed CPR/First Aid training in 2009, their letter would note that they need to complete 4 hours of OSHA training in 2010. When registering for LogSafe workshops, MLEP staff checked the previous year's training record database to ensure that the logger got signed up for the correct number of hours/workshop (time passes quickly year to year and while many loggers thought they completed the class just last year, many hadn't). In addition, our education efforts reminded employers that all employees need this training, not just one per crew. The combination of these actions increased OSHA compliance and demand for CPR/First Aid training significantly (68%). The three-year average from 2006-2008 for CPR/First Aid training was 349. In 2009, 588 loggers completed this mandated training.
- **Compliance documentation.** Loggers, public land management agencies (State, County, Federal and Tribal) and mills have access to a single training record file that includes all the training record information (both LogSafe records and MLEP records) for a logger. These entities depend on this information to verify training and certification requirements. For example, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses this report to verify compliance with Minn. Stat. 90.145 Subd.1 and to provide evidence to their third-party auditors that the loggers operating on



**LogSafe Letter** *(Continued From Page 4)*

their land meet the requirements necessary to maintain the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Sustainable Forestry Initiative® certification.

In addition to concerns with the allocated budget, the RFP limits a responder's ability to be flexible in utilizing content specific presenters by requiring responders to identify who those instructors will be when submitting their proposal. Workshop topics, based on claim statistics and input from the Education Planning Working Group, should determine what workshops are offered and who is best qualified to instruct those courses. As a result, identifying specific presenters in a proposal makes it difficult to be responsive to emerging training needs identified through those sources.

Finally, the RFP does not include any minimum instructor/participant ratios. Utilizing best practices for adult education, we have tried to limit enrollment in our safety workshops to no more than 25. These smaller class sizes have resulted in increased interaction among participants through organized discussion, group exercises and hands-on learning. This is the size that works best for adult learners and was a major complaint about past LogSafe practices. Respondents may choose to go back to the 75-100+ participant class sizes DLI provided in the past to reduce costs. Providing fewer workshops with larger class sizes will probably result in a diminished educational experience for participants.

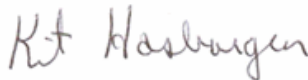
MLEP believes we are the organization best suited for administering the design and delivery of safety training for loggers. The enclosed letters of support from organizations representing the forest community share that view. Unfortunately, we believe that the budget allocated in the RFP is insufficient to deliver the high quality, interactive training loggers deserve.

In summary, MLEP will not be submitting a response to the DLI RFP. Hopefully, future RFPs will address these concerns and we can look forward to having the opportunity to deliver this training again in the future.

Sincerely,



David Chura  
Executive Director



Kit Hasbargen  
President

Enclosures – letters from:

- Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership
- Minnesota Forest Resources Council
- Minnesota Timber Producers Association
- Minnesota Forest Industries
- Minnesota SFI® Implementation Committee
- Blandin Paper Company
- Boise
- Forest Capital Partners, LLC
- Potlatch
- Sappi
- VersoPaper





## Pre-employment Screening Program (PSP)

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has launched a Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP), which allows commercial motor carrier companies to electronically access driver inspection and crash records as a part of the hiring process.

PSP is designed to assist the motor carrier industry in assessing individual operators' crash and serious safety violation history as a pre-employment condition. A carrier will pay \$10 for each requested driver history. Carriers with fewer than 100 power units qualify for a discounted annual fee of \$25 per year. Individuals can request a personal driving history for a fee of \$10. No subscription is necessary for individual drivers.

The Pre-Employment Screening Program offers access to up to five years of driver crash data and three years of inspection data regardless of the state or jurisdiction. By using driver safety information during pre-employment screening, commercial carriers will be able to better assess the potential safety risks of prospective driver-employees. PSP also gives drivers additional opportunities to verify the data in their driving history and correct any discrepancies. A driver's records will be protected in accordance with federal privacy laws.

The Pre-Employment Screening Program is populated monthly by FMCSA's Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). The MCMIS is comprised of driver performance data including inspection and compliance review results, enforcement data, state-reported crashes, and motor carrier census data.

For complete details on the Pre-Employment Screening Program's fees for driver safety records and how carriers and drivers can participate, visit <http://www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

## A \$40,000 CD Coming Your Way Soon



That's right, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has spent more than **\$40,000** to develop a LogSafe Training Course on CD.

Unfortunately, loggers who complete the training won't receive any LogSafe credit. MLEP supports the development and delivery of computer based training and educational resources, but if you're going to spend \$40,000 to develop a CD training program - loggers ought to be able to get LogSafe credit for completing the training. DLI is planning to mail the CD out to all logging companies in Minnesota. Once you receive the CD, you can decide for yourself if this was \$40,000+ well spent.

## Wood Debris on Road Prompts Complaint

A recent complaint about wood debris on the road is a good reminder of the importance of securing loads and cleaning off trailers after unloading at the mill. During your next safety meeting, remind your drivers to clean debris off their trucks before leaving the landing or wood yard. Wood debris scattered on the road or flying off of trucks may not be the norm, but it does affect the driving public's opinion and support of our industry.





## COMING SOON – Online FMG Training

Thanks to financial support from the AgStar Fund for Rural America, DNR, MFRC & University of Minnesota Extension, an effort to make training on Minnesota's Forest Management Guidelines (FMG) available online is now underway. Our goal is to have the training available online by July 2011. Stay tuned!

## Aitkin County Land Commissioner Emphasizes Important Role of Loggers

In a newspaper commentary, Mark Jacobs, Aitkin County Land Commissioner, stated, "a quality logging operation is an integral part of sound forest management and we are fortunate to have some of the most skilled and versatile logging companies in the US; right here in northern MN." We couldn't agree more.

Jacobs points out that "professional loggers, in conjunction with a well-designed forest management plan and strong markets for forest products, helps to keep forests healthy, diverse, and productive; and actually protects against the loss of forestland. Areas that lose their forest industry tend to lose their forestland".

Thank you for the work you do taking care of our forests, providing recreational opportunities and jobs.

## Minnesota Forest Resource Assessment and Strategies

As required by the 2008 Federal Farm Bill, the Minnesota DNR has completed two reports that you may find useful to your business. You can view them online at the links below, or contact the MLEP office to receive a copy of the reports.

[Minnesota Statewide Resource Assessment Report](http://www.mlep.org/documents/mnassessmentfinaljune2010.pdf) - Positioning the State of Minnesota for Forest Resource Sustainability 2010-2015.

<http://www.mlep.org/documents/mnassessmentfinaljune2010.pdf>

[Minnesota Forest Resource Strategies](http://www.mlep.org/documents/mnstrategiesfinaljune2010.pdf) - Important facts, information, trends and conditions about Minnesota's forests.

<http://www.mlep.org/documents/mnstrategiesfinaljune2010.pdf>





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## Upcoming Events

### August

31 & Sep. 1 – Forest Mgmt Guidelines- Cloquet

### September

8&9 – Forest Mgmt Guidelines- Rochester

14 – Intermediate Stand Treatments – Cloquet

28 – Brake Inspector Qualification - Bemidji

29 – Brake Inspector Qualification- Brainerd

29 – Truck Weight Compliance - Arden Hills

### October

5 – LogSafe- IFalls (Electric Safety & CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

6 – LogSafe- Bemidji (Def. Driving & CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

6 – Truck Weight Compliance - Mankato

### October (continued)

7 – LogSafe– Bemidji (Defensive Driving)

12 – LogSafe– Cloquet (Fire Safety & CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

13 – LogSafe– Cloquet (Fire Safety)

14 – LogSafe– Brainerd (CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

14 – Truck Weight Compliance – St.Cloud

20 – Truck Weight Compliance - Bemidji

27 – Truck Weight Compliance - Alexandria

### December

7 – LogSafe– Hibbing (Electric Sfty & CPR-1<sup>st</sup> Aid)

## - 2010 MLEP Board of Directors -

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Hasbargen Logging, Inc

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U of M Extension

### Tom McCabe Jr.

McCabe Forest Products

### Rod Enberg, Vice President

Enberg Logging

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