



# Training notes from the woods & the classroom

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301 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street; Suite 510 · Duluth, MN 55802 · 218-722-5442 · [www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org)

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## Feller Buncher Safety

By Lee Schauman

Below is a checklist that operators should become familiar with in order to operate their machines safely and efficiently.

1. Check all hydraulic lines and fittings, the hydraulic fluid levels, and the motor oil levels on a daily basis.
2. Check for vandalism during your walkaround check.
3. Check all pins and the carriers lift arm linkage for any obvious damage or unusual wear before operating.
4. Never start the carrier until everyone is completely clear of the cutting head.
5. Do not make any adjustments or repairs to the cutting head while the carrier is running or the operator is in the cab.
6. Never leave the cutting head unattended while the carrier is running.
7. Never leave a tree in the cutting head unattended.
8. Never elevate the cutting head to work on it unless it is supported.
9. Never leave the cutting head elevated while the machine is unattended.
10. Do not attempt to cut trees larger than the cutting head's rated capacity.
11. Do not allow anyone within two tree lengths while the cutting head is in operation.
12. Do not use the cutting head for a dozer blade.
13. When working on an incline, do not work around the slope. Work uphill and deadhead downhill: the machine is more stable this way. As a general rule, a 35 degree slope is the recommended maximum for safe operation.
14. After cutting the tree, carry it low. Carrying a tree high can tip the machine and cause severe damage to the boom or loader arms.
15. Make gradual motions with the machine while holding a tree. Quick moves may cause tops to break off and fall on the cab.
16. Don't pile trees in bundles larger than the skidder can handle.
17. Only trained and authorized personnel should operate equipment. New operators should be trained by accompanying trained operators.
18. Keep the manufacturer's operators manual with the equipment at all times.
19. Do not exceed the manufacturer's recommended limitations.

Carrying trees up or down a slope calls for special care. When carrying trees downhill, tilt the cutting head back so that the tree is leaning back over the machine. When carrying trees uphill, tilt the head out so that the tree leans away from the machine.

Simple and obvious safety precautions can keep the operator safe, the machine upright, and the production profitable. Work safe out there, and pay attention to the little things that we too often take for granted.

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