



## **VISUAL GUIDE TO LANDING SAFETY**

*Logger Education Programs: safety*

*February 2005*

[www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/05-R-12.html](http://www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/05-R-12.html)

**INTRODUCTION:** Communication of safety information to logging workers relies on training information that is auditory, visual, and written. Videos and manuals provide good support for safety messages and procedures encouraged by training. However, these communication modes may be limited by the need to comprehend spoken or written English, and they tend not to demonstrate the negative outcomes (injuries) of ignoring the safety messages. The former refers to challenges caused not only by the increasing presence of Spanish-speaking workers in logging, but also by low literacy among a significant number of other logging workers.

Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences has launched a project to overcome this communication barrier.

**GENERAL FEATURES:** Reading comprehension issues may be addressed by displaying safety information largely in the absence of text. Signs and symbols meant to convey information in the absence of text are all around us, such as symbols on bathroom doors and traffic signs designed for users that may not share a common language. Manufacturers deal with the need to convey safety information by using warning signs and symbols compliant with specific standards. (In the U.S. the applicable standard is ANSI Standard Z535.) Even though these symbols are all around us, it still may be necessary to reinforce what these symbols mean. Both context and experience help workers to translate these abstract symbols into safety messages.

Displaying negative outcomes of disregarding safety information and suggesting countermeasures has been accomplished using images tied together in a "photonovela," or picture story. Computer-generated images display critical events leading to injury and use of countermeasures to avoid those injuries. Researchers in Auburn University's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering generated the imagery. The photonovelas were based on statistical data from safety studies and information from FRA Safety Alerts that illustrate common hazards that may lead to death or serious injury if ignored on logging operations.



**Fig. 1:** Hazards at landings have been identified as an exposure to which non-English-speaking logging workers are at special risk.

**APPLICATION:** The published document is spiral-bound and contains warning symbol information, landing hazard diagrams, and four photonovelas for use in informing logging workers about common landing hazards. In 2005, the *Visual Guide to Landing Safety* will be

distributed to Alabama Professional Logging Manager participants for their use and recommendations for improvement.

Currently this document is published on [www.sfws.auburn.edu/plm/landingguide.htm](http://www.sfws.auburn.edu/plm/landingguide.htm). During 2005, a larger selection of photonovelas and diagrams will be available on the web site. On-line users will be able to customize photonovelas for other hazard/countermeasure combinations. The feedback from on-site and on-line users will improve the safety messages on the web-based version. Auburn intends to maintain this effort through the end of 2005.

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*Reviewed by:*

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