



STORM DAMAGE AND SALVAGE SAFETY VIDEO

Safety: logging

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INTRODUCTION: This video-based training program highlights safe techniques in harvesting and clean-up of storm damaged timber. The frequency of wind throw from hurricanes and tornadoes and similarity of stand conditions suffering ice damage creates special conditions that threaten the safety of woods operators. Developing a safe plan of operation could include mechanical and manual techniques, separately or in combination, to avoid or clear away hazards safely. The 20-minute video stresses both proper planning before workers are exposed and the technical aspects of mechanical and manual cutting. The content is suitable for conventional woods workers as well as for utility crews and emergency management contractors who face similar hazardous conditions.

GENERAL FEATURES: The *Storm Damage and Salvage Safety* video covers the following topics:

- Developing a safe plan of operation by identifying types of hazards and placing decks and approach paths to salvageable timber appropriately.
- Advocacy of mechanical operations with the highest level of operator protection.
- Review of required personal protective equipment.
- Review of chain saw safety features and reactionary forces when manual cutting is used.
- Developing a topping and limbing plan that identifies risk and provides a safe approach to stems on the ground.
- Identifying tension and compression wood and understanding how cutting stems and limbs releases forces.
- Description of four specialized manual cutting techniques—top lock, limb lock, tongue and groove lock, and cutting spring poles—and their application.



Fig. 1: Video focuses special attention on chain saw safety and use of personal protective equipment.

- Description of root ball hazards and how to eliminate risk.
- How to assist manual salvage with mechanized equipment safely.
- How to manage stems on slopes safely.
- Brief introduction to manual felling of standing trees.

APPLICATION: The *Storm Damage and Salvage Safety* video may be used either in group settings or as an individual training aid. The Discussion Leader's Guide included with the DVD introduces the material and provides appropriate questions and answers related to video content. The training assumes a familiarity with timber operations and shows the more technical aspects of dealing with trees, stems, and tops under physical stress due to storm throw and damage conditions. This training program is an effective aid to logging crews, utility crews, and emergency management crews in salvage operations. The nature of the material lends itself well to distribution prior to expected occurrences such as hurricane season in the Southern US and also immediately after storms have hit. The emphasis on hazard recognition is extremely valuable before a worker places him- or herself in harm's way.

SPECIFICATIONS AND COST: The 20-minute *Storm Damage and Salvage Safety* video (DVD format) is filmed in actual storm-damaged stands of various tree species. The DVD, with associated Discussion Leaders Guide, is available to FRA members for \$50.00 (\$100.00 to non-members), domestic shipping and handling included. For more information, or to order, contact the FRA National Office at 301-838-9385; please refer to stock number 09-A-6. Members of the NC Association of Professional Loggers, Inc. and insured businesses with Forestry Mutual Insurance Company can obtain the video from those organizations at special pricing.

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FRA STAFF COMMENT: The many hours of preparation, filming, and editing has paid off with this video. The video is a proactive way to ensure you and your co-workers or employees are continually focusing on safety when timber salvage work is necessary.

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