

# Storm Damage and Salvage Safety

October 2009

**INTRODUCTION:** This video is provided to highlight 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 unique conditions that threaten safety of woods operators. Developing a safe plan of operation could include mechanical and manual techniques alone or in combination to safely avoid or clear away hazards. This video stresses both the proper planning before workers are exposed as well as the technical aspects of mechanical and manual cutting. The content is suitable for traditional woods workers as well as utility crews and emergency management contractors who face similar hazardous conditions.

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

- Developing a safe plan of operation by identifying types of hazards, proper placement of decks and approach paths to salvageable timber
- Preference to 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 how forces are released when stems and limbs are cut
- Detailed description and utilizing of four specialized manual cutting techniques classified as top lock, limb lock, tongue and groove lock, and cutting spring poles
- Description of root ball hazards and how to eliminate risk
- How to safely assist manual salvage with mechanized equipment
- How to safely manage stems on slopes
- Brief introduction to manual felling of standing trees



**USE:** The Storm Damage Safety video is a DVD medium intended to be used in group settings or as an individual training aid. The discussion leaders guide included with the DVD introduces the material and provides appropriate questions and answers as to the content seen. 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. It will be a welcome aid to logging crews, utility crews and emergency management crews finding themselves 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 from any source have hit. The emphasis on hazard recognition is extremely valuable before a worker places him/herself in harm's way.

**SPECIFICATIONS AND COST:** This 20 minute video (DVD format) is filmed in actual storm damaged stands of various tree species.

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