



**Professional Logging Contractors of Maine &  
The Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands**  
108 Sewall St. PO Box 1036, Augusta, ME 04332

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## **PLC 2022 Safety Committee Meeting**

10/25/22 – 12:30 pm, Cross Insurance Center, Bangor, ME

Attending: Steve Hanington, Hanington Bros; Kurt Babineau, Babineau Trucking, Inc.; Duane Jordan, Elliott Jordan & Son; Justin Merrill, George Merrill & Son Logging, LLC; Lacey Farrar, Treeline Inc; Brian Souers, Treeline Inc.; Alyson Pickering, Treeline, Inc.; Jessica Clark, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Dana Doran, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Donald Burr, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Barrett Parks, MEMIC; Laurie Palow, Acadia; Ted Clark, Acadia; Lisa Provost, Acadia; Doug Freeman, Acadia; Brent Wittman, Acadia; Drew Cota, Cross Insurance; Blaine Meehan, Cross Insurance; Nikki Knowles, United Insurance; Travis Duval, United Insurance; Felicia Ouellette, United Insurance; Mark Bailey, Gosline Murchie-Readfield Insurance; Dick Scott, Kyes Insurance; Kevin Luschen, NEC; Aaron Currier, Maine Forest Service; Paul Stewart, EMT; Cheryl Quirion, FMCSA; Brie Weisman, Maine AgrAbility Program

**Anti-Trust** - Dana Doran called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and referenced the anti-trust statement.

**Minutes Approval** - Dana Doran and the committee reviewed the minutes from the January 2022 meeting and there were no changes.

### **Safety Reports from Agents and Industry:**

**Ted Clark (Acadia Insurance)** - A recommendation from Ted was to keep up on cleaning machines and add debris protection to reduce the risk of equipment fires getting too large for the suppression system to be effective. Many of the fire suppression systems that he inspected had the fire suppression system turned to inactive it was disabled during service or an employee didn't want to hear it during startup. This is a major risk and could put machines at risk of destruction or not being covered by insurance. Also, considering the known shortages of parts and staff, he encouraged members to report a discharge to the suppression company as soon as it occurs in order to meet Acadia's 10-day requirement for recharge.

Acadia will be offering CPR, however the PLC CPR program is also a great no cost option for contractors. Injuries on the workers comp side are still slips, trips and falls, access to machines, aging workforce, and inconsistent use of gloves and safety glasses.

Ted recommended dash cameras to cover the company and the driver in the case of an incident for all commercial trucks.

**Barrett Parks (MEMIC)** - Barrett reported that most common injuries for frequency are back/shoulders, injuries caused by falls and struck-by/caught-in (equipment). There were also secondary eye injuries to bystanders who were not wearing safety goggles. The most severe injuries were struck by tire, falling on ice, throwing straps (shoulder) and falling off of machine tracks. Most of the people involved in the struck-by/caught-in were under the age of 40.

**Kevin Luschen (NEC)** - Kevin let the group know that the program did not receive funding for 2023 but they have reapplied and expect it to be approved for 2024. They will find out in May of 2023. Preliminary findings from their study show: 50% of subjects had stage two high blood pressure and 35% have stage one high blood pressure, the average BMI for the group was in the obese category, low sleep quality and low access to healthy foods. The next steps in the program are to implement a program for participants to help lower the risk of heart disease, obesity, and additional health concerns.

**Cheryl Quirion (FMCSA)** - Cheryl stated that the "Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse" is being used. There are instances where some drivers/companies don't know they need to use it and some owners are not entering test results. She stated there is a need for a class for owners and employees on the proper use of the Clearinghouse.

**Donald Burr (PLC training & safety coordinator)** - Northeast Safe Logger (NESL): NE Safe Logger is free for PLC members until 2025 and is a great resource for contractors to use for new hires to get the certified rate for workers comp. or for employees who may need additional training in a certain area.



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For PLC contractor members, PLC has a member only log in page where you can log in and see all safety videos that Donald has produced, and it should be checked regularly. Donald is also working on additional Humpday videos that are available in the member section of the website; they are between two to five minutes long and are a great resource to be shared with employees. Monthly safety emails usually go out to contractors and agents the first Wednesday of the month.

Finally, Donald is always looking for injury stories to share as a cautionary message to others.

**Logging Safety Topics for 2023:** Injury triage, Basic Forest Fires, PPE, Extinguishing live fires / properly fire extinguisher use, Safely working on equipment (Greasing a delimber), Work stress reduction / mental health, oxy & acetylene / torch training/Hot work safety, Ergonomics for loggers (identify pain levels), Enhanced garage safety, Risk awareness skills, Train your next trainer (employees) and address “not my job” mentality, Importance of proper lighting and use of headlamps

**Fleet Safety Topics for 2023:** Injury triage, Truck maintenance safety, Safely moving equipment on roads, Enhanced garage safety, Truck inspection - common violations & consequences Troop K. Heat/cold safety, Ergonomics for truckers, Importance of proper lighting and use of headlamps, Best practices – strap throwing “show me how you do it”, FMCSA drug clearinghouse 101 for employees/employers, chemical handling, Driver responsibility roundtable

The PLC will send out a survey of topics to contractor members to determine which topics are needed the most.

**Jessica Clark (PLC Membership):** Jessica reviewed the possible dates of spring training to gather feedback. The dates were approved, however may change based on the availability of the host companies.

**Possible dates for Spring Training 2023(subject to change):**

Fleet/CPR - Demark: 3/30 (Thursday)  
Logging - Denmark: 3/31 (Friday)

Logging - Rumford: 4/6 (Thursday)  
Logging - Waltham: 4/7 (Friday)

Fleet/CPR - Milford: 4/13 (Thursday)  
Logging - Passadumkeag: 4/14 (Friday)

Logging – Lincoln: 4/21 (Friday)

Fleet/CPR- Strong: 4/27 (Thursday)  
Logging - Stratton: 4/28 (Friday)

Logging - Athens 5/12 (Friday)

Logging - Fort Kent: 5/24 (Wednesday)

These trainings could not be put on without the generous support of the sponsors. Jessica reviewed the sponsorship opportunities for 2023 and encouraged companies to continue their support. Barry Equipment, United Insurance and Readfield Insurance have all committed to supporting training in 2023. Sponsorship information will be sent out to all supporting members in November.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm and the next meeting will be held via Zoom/Teams on January 24, 2023.