



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

Phone: (207) 688-8195 Fax: (207) 620-7517



PLC 2023 Safety Committee Meeting

January 24, 2023 – 9:00 AM, Zoom

Attending: Dana Doran, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Jessica Clark, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Donald Burr, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Jon Humphrey, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Vanessa Tillson, Professional Logging Contractors of Maine; Paul Stewart, Southern Aroostook Emergency Medical Service Paramedic; Drew Cota, Cross Insurance Agency; Ted Clark, Acadia; Lisa Provost, Acadia; Brent Wittman, Acadia; Eric Adair, FMCSA; Brie Weisman, Maine AgrAbility; Brian Souers, Treeline, Inc.; Barrett Parks, MEMIC; Andy Wood, MEMIC; James Shelley, J.E. Shelley Logging & Excavation; Cheryl Quirion, FMCSA; Lacey Farrar, Treeline, Inc.; Terry Theriault, TNT Road Company; Tori Tracy, NAMI; Ben Voisine, Voisine Brothers Inc.; Travis Duval, United Insurance; Nikki Knowles, United Insurance; Robyn Edgecomb, Chalmers; Bob Logan, Chalmers; Duane Jordan, Elliot Jordan & Son, Inc.

Anti-Trust - Dana Doran called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and referenced the anti-trust statement.

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

Safety Reports from Agents and Industry:

Ted Clark (Acadia Insurance) – Ted reminded contractors 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. Ted advised that as of 2023 it is now going to be required to show photographed proof of a loaded stream fire extinguisher installed on all equipment. Ted also advised that insureds should ensure snow and ice are removed from buildings during the winter months to prevent structure collapse.

Acadia will be offering CPR/First Aid in 2023, however the PLC CPR program is also a great no cost option for contractors.

Andy Wood (MEMIC) – Andy reported that for a few years slips, trips, and falls were going down, unfortunately that trend reversed itself in 2022. In 2022, on a frequency basis, 25% of claims made were related to slips, trips, and falls and on a severity basis slips, trips, and falls represented 64% of claim dollars spent. Six of the seven most expensive injuries were caused by slips, trips, and falls. Andy let the committee know that the cause of most of these slips, trips, and falls, was almost equally split between falls from equipment and slips on ice and snow. The most expensive claim for the 2022 happened when a log truck tire blew up as it was being re-inflated. Andy reminded the committee that tire cages should be in all garages and always used.

For many years vehicle accidents have not been the leading driver for injuries on a frequency or severity basis, unfortunately that changed in 2022. 25% of claims made resulted from vehicle accidents and 60% of the claim dollars spent in this class code were from vehicle accidents. Three of the four most expensive injuries for this group were caused by a vehicle accident. The average length of employment for these employees making a claim in this group was six to seven years. A lot of the most expensive vehicle accidents occurred in an on-road environment with paved roads

Eric Adair (FMCSA) – Eric Adair reported that lane crossovers were at the highest they have been for 2022. It has been noticed that since COVID-19 people have been driving much faster than usual resulting in a new national study to be started to see why this has become such a noticeable trend.

Donald Burr (PLC training & safety coordinator) – Donald Burr reported on the *Humpday Safety* video's he has been creating and what will be created in the future. He also briefed the committee on infograms that he will be working on for contractors to hang in their garages. These will be for employees to read throughout their day with information regarding various high-risk topics. He then advised the committee that he is still looking for topics for his *Unsafe Zone* stories/videos for contractor members to share with their employees.



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Donald then discussed the 2023 PLC Safety Training topics and schedule.

Logging Safety Topics for 2023: Injury Triage, Employee Empowerment, ErgoLOGics, Forest Fires & You, Mental Health & Wellness, and Pre-plan Your Work.

Fleet Safety Topics for 2023: Liability. Whose job is it?, Injury Triage, Roadside Relationships, ErgoLOGics, Mental Health & Wellness, Pre-plan Your Work.

2023 Safety Training Dates:

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

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

Logging - Passadumkeag: 4/14 (Friday)

Fleet/CPR - Chester: 4/20 (Thursday)
Logging - Chester: 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)

Leadership Lunch and Learn (owners/foremen): Donald will be conducting the Leadership Lunches again for 2023. These sessions will be for owners and foremen to sit in on during the lunch hour. During this time, Donald will be reviewing the PLC safety resources and where contractors can access them for their employees.

Jessica Clark (PLC Membership): Jessica reviewed the 2023 Safety Training registration with the committee. Jessica also reminded everyone attending, that the PLC will be waiving the dues for those members that send 50% or more of their company to one of our spring Safety Trainings for 2024. Jessica then went on to discuss the new sponsorship levels and opportunities and encouraged companies to participate. With training costs almost tripling, the PLC couldn't put on these trainings without the generous support of its sponsors.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am and the next meeting will be held in October 2023.

Commented [DD1]: Did we also discuss the free membership dues for 2024?