



Overhead Hazards



Look Up! Overhead hazards can lead to catastrophic injury and death.

Be alert and aware to overhead risks. You can reduce the risk of overhead hazards by working together.

Overhead hazards must first be spotted or identified.

When a hazard is found, proper decisions and actions can defuse the risk. Let's Do It:

Conduct a site walkthrough of your work area before starting. Look up and assess your surroundings for any overhead risks. Scan your ground travel path at least 50 ahead of you. Scan at least 100 feet ahead for overhead hazards. Never walk into a work area with running and moving equipment. Equipment must be stopped, engine cut-off, and all hydraulic implements grounded.

Use your senses: Listen for unusual sounds that may indicate falling objects or equipment malfunctions. Look for signs of wear or damage on equipment.

Consult with Your Team: Communicate with your coworkers about any observed hazards. Two sets of eyes are always better than one!

Always wear proper, well maintained head protection (hard hats). This includes anyone on the ground, outside the protection of equipment that is equipped with ROPS and FOPS. Equipment operators are encouraged to wear head protection even while in the safety of an enclosed cab. Hard hats can prevent injury in the case of machine roll over, or from sudden, unplanned stops.

Don't place yourself under anything that can move due to gravity or the loss of hydraulic pressure.

Maintain at least two tree lengths from any felling area. The industry standard for the two-tree length rule is 300 feet, or 100 yards. Use proper felling techniques. Directional felling techniques reduce the risk of "struck-by" accidents. Proper notching and adequate hinge wood insures a timber cutter's safety.

Be Visible! Be Seen! Make yourself visible by wearing high contrast clothing and high visibility safety colors.

REMEMBER... Heightened awareness reduces the risk of injury or death to our woods workers and loved ones.



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Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members. Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan. Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, NIOSH, FRA



