

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



## WORKING IN BLOWDOWNS

Violent Windstorms are common in the Northeast, and they often leave behind blown-down trees that need to be removed. But before you charge in with your chain-saw revving, a careful assessment of the situation is warranted. Removing blow-downs can be very dangerous. A tangle of blown-down trees contains wood that is under stress and that will react violently when the stress is released.

Examine the downed trees to identify which wood is under stress. Stress is stored energy that can be released suddenly when a trunk or limb is cut. Most commonly, it is created by compressions (pushing together) or tension (pulling apart) of wood fibers. You can test for stress by making a small cut into a stem and watching what happens. If the cut closes, it is under compression; if it opens, it is under tension. Understanding these forces will help you avoid binding your saw or exposing yourself to injury as you continue cutting.

Bent limbs, limbs in contact with the ground or other trees, or small trees trapped under a felled tree are most likely under stress. Boles trapped by adjacent stems or stumps, or lying on a slope can jump, pivot, or slide when cut. One stress often overlooked is that caused by the root ball in trees that have been completely uprooted. This heavy wad of dirt,



stones, and roots can be unpredictable and may roll or fall back into its hole when released.

Work safely. Always keep both feet firmly planted on the ground when cutting. Do not allow your feet to become tangled in brush, and do not work in confined spaces. Always have an escape route. Work from the uphill side or away from the direction where the tree may roll.

Attack the job methodically. First cut and remove limbs that are not under stress, and then start with the smallest and easiest-to-reach stems. By working methodically, you will gradually lessen the stress on the remaining wood and give yourself more room to operate.

For wood under stress, always start with a relieving cut on

the compression side of the log or stem. A V-shaped notch on this side will release the pressure gradually and help keep the saw from binding. Finish with a final cut from the tension side.

Bent limbs can be controlled by gradually shaving them on the compression side until they fold. When cutting limbs in contact with the ground, be aware that the trunk may drop, spin, or pivot when the limb is released, and position yourself so that you will not be struck. Always remember that in any situation, your safety is the highest priority.

*Game of logging newsletter winter 2005*



## FOREST RESOURCES ASSOCIATION INC.

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## SAFETY ALERT

**06-S-9**

### CLOSE CALL WITH LOADED PULPWOOD TRUCK

August 2006

[www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/06-S-9.html](http://www.forestresources.org/members/serpub/06-S-9.html)

**BACKGROUND:** An operations forester was inspecting harvesting operations in his pickup truck in the Northeast on a cool winter's day.

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** The 52-year old forester was traveling in a 4WD pickup truck on a logging operation on a winter road. He had 28 years of experience working in the North Woods and was fully trained regarding safe driving techniques on logging roads.

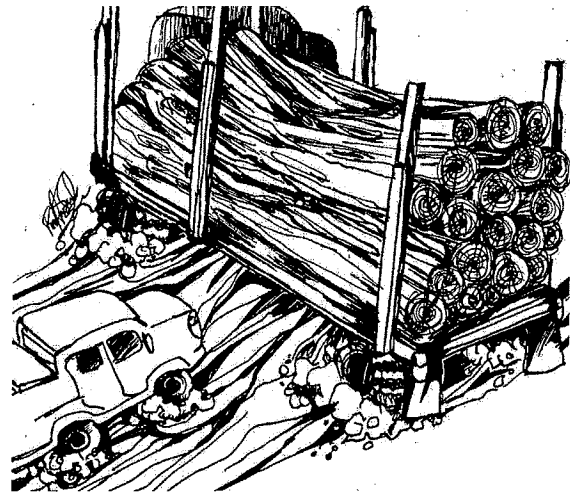
**UNSAFE ACT OR CONDITION:** The forester had pulled over to make a cell phone call. He was monitoring the CB radio for truck traffic on the narrow, ice-covered winter road. A loaded pulpwood truck safely passed his pickup and made an initial run on a moderately steep hill on its way to the mill.

The pulpwood truck was hauling off-highway loads on a private road, and the driver was not as concerned about meeting legal weight or strap requirements. He had only two straps securing his load, and the truck was loaded to about 130,000 pounds gross weight. The load was placed so that much of the weight was at the rear of the trailer, reducing drive wheel traction. Only the drive wheels had chains.

The truck driver made his run for the hill, after first calling on the CB to make sure no empty truck was coming in. Near the peak of the hill, the load shifted, and the truck broke traction. The trucker called for a nearby skidder to help push him up over the hill.

The forester, hearing the CB chatter, drove closer to the truck. He stopped about 100 feet away and assessed the situation. About that time, the trucker made an urgent call over the CB, stating that he could not hold the truck on the hill.

**ACCIDENT:** The truck began to slide backwards on the icy hill. The forester began backing up, but the heavily-loaded truck was picking up speed and was turning sideways on the hill. The forester sped up to avoid the oncoming truck and successfully escaped from the danger zone. The truck came to rest at the bottom of the hill, with the load sideways but upright in the road, and the tractor off the road in the woods.



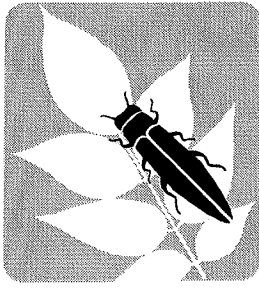
**INJURY:** The trucker was not hurt, and the truck sustained minimal damage. Since empty trucks and other vehicles were using the busy logging road, the forester strung flagging across the road above the hill to warn incoming traffic and used his CB to warn other vehicles using the road.

Two grapple skidders from the nearby operation pulled the truck back onto the road. After rearranging the load, the truck continued on to the mill without further incident.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORRECTION:** This incident, which could easily have led to fatalities, demonstrates the importance of using safe following distances, preparing and securing loads properly, as well as the importance of communications protocols on logging roads. FRA's video *Woods Roads Safety* (05-A-6; \$25 to members, \$50 to non-members; specify DVD or VHS format) provides additional guidelines.

Reviewed by:  
Joel Swanton  
Northeast Region Manager

*Please follow equipment manufacturers' recommendations for safe operation and maintenance procedures.*



Michigan

# Emerald Ash Borer Response Project

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Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Michigan Department Natural Resources  
Michigan State University  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## MEETING NOTICE

### Contractors Wanted Mandatory Pre-bid Meetings EAB Tree Removal Contract

**Purpose:** To provide an opportunity for loggers and tree removal companies to qualify as contractors for the statewide Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Tree Removal Contracts. Attendees will review the Invitation To Bid (ITB) for contracts utilized in the EAB eradication actions. Attendance at this meeting is MANDATORY for potential contractors wishing to submit a bid for this contract.

**Who Should Attend:** Industry Officials, Logging Companies and Tree Removal Companies. Attendees should bring a copy of the ITB 071I6200331 to the meeting. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness](http://www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness) to download a copy.

**Where (choose one):**

**Saginaw**

**August 8 at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Michigan Dept. of Agriculture Region Office  
1585 Tittabawassee Rd.  
Saginaw, MI 48604

**Grand Rapids**

**August 9 at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Alpine Twp. Hall  
2015 7-mile road (NW corner of Baumhoff)  
Comstock Park, MI 49321

**Mackinaw City**

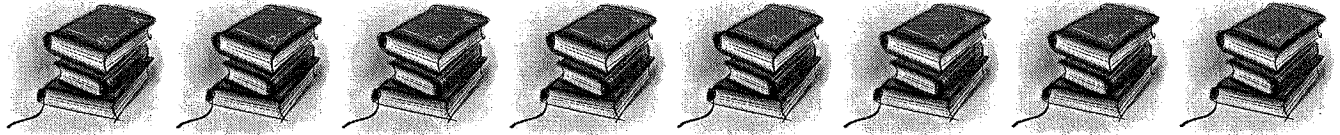
**August 10 at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Mackinaw City Village Recreation Center  
507 W. Central  
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

**Why:** This mandatory pre-bid meeting will provide a review of specifications, State's Terms and Conditions, an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the tree removal contracts.

**Contact:** For more information about these meetings, please contact Angela Riess at 517-241-7467 or Heather Throne at 517-373-1085.

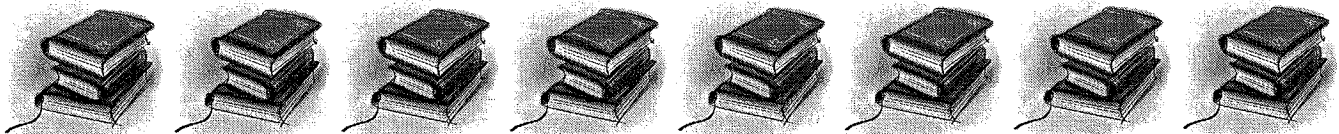
**If you are unable to attend these meetings, or they are not in your area, please use above contact information for other options.**

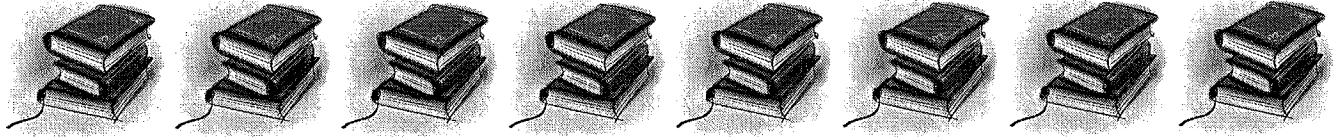


## 2006 MICHIGAN LOGGER EDUCATION TRAINING SCHEDULE

### September 2006

September 6	8:30 AM-12:30 PM 1:00 PM-5:00 PM	<b>Visual Quality Management – Newberry</b> <b>Forest Soils - Newberry</b> <i>LMAS Health Department, 14150 Hamilton Lake Road, Newberry, MI (On dead end road west of state prison)</i>
September 11	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	<b>Basic Safety &amp; Maintenance of Equipment – Alpena</b> <i>Alpena Community College, 666 Johnson St., Center Building Room 106</i>
September 12-14	9 AM-5 PM	<b>SFE Core Training Program – Cadillac</b> Forest Ecology (September 12, 9 AM-1 PM) BMP (September 12, 1 PM-5 PM) Silviculture (September 13, 9 AM-1 PM) MIOSHA (September 13, 1 PM-5 PM) Field Day (September 14, 9 AM-4 PM) <i>Wexford County MSUE, 401 N. Lake Street, Cadillac, MI</i>
September 19	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	<b>Hazardous Spill Cleanup and Planning – Rogers City</b>
September 19	1:00 PM-5:00 PM	<b>Protecting Sensitive Sites &amp; Native Vegetation – Rogers City</b> <i>Presque Isle Courthouse 151 E. Huron Ave, Rogers City, MI</i>
September 21	6:00 PM-10:00 PM	<b>Hazardous Spill Cleanup and Planning – Ironwood, MI</b> <i>Gogebic County Community College, Room TBA, Ironwood, MI</i>
September 26	8:30 AM-12:30 PM 1:00 PM-5:00 PM	<b>Protecting Sensitive Sites &amp; Native Vegetation – Stephenson, MI</b> <b>Forest Soils – Stephenson, MI</b> <i>Menominee County MSUE, S904 U.S. Highway 41, Stephenson, MI</i>





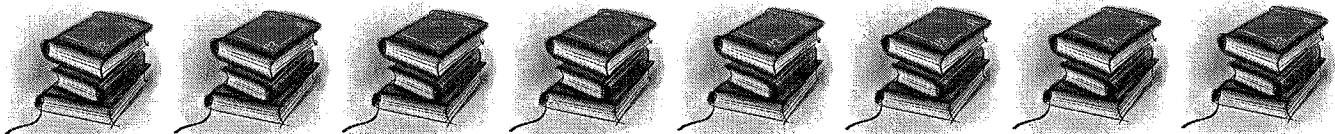
## October 2006

October 3	1 PM-5 PM	<b>Safety Refresher – Gaylord</b> <i>Otsego County MSUE, 800 Livingston Blvd, Gaylord, MI</i>
October 3-5	9 AM-5 PM	<b>SFE Core Training Program – Newberry</b> Forest Ecology (October 3, 9 AM-1 PM) MIOSHA (October 3, 1 PM-5 PM) BMP (October 4, 9 AM-1 PM) Silviculture (October 4, 1 PM-5 PM) Field Day (October 5, 9 AM-4 PM) <i>LMS Health Department, 14150 Hamilton Lake Road, Newberry, MI (On dead end road west of state prison)</i>
October 5	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	<b>Pulpwood Timber Cruising – Mio</b> <i>Community Center, 305 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Mio MI.</i>
October 17	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	<b>Advocacy/Lobbying – Lansing</b> <i>MFPC Offices</i>
October 18 October 18	8:30 AM-12:30 PM 1:00 PM-5:00 PM	<b>Forest Health Update – Wetmore</b> <b>Forest Health Update – Wetmore</b> <i>Munising Township Hall (one block south and one block west of Super 8 Motel)</i>
October 24	8:30 AM-4:30 PM	<b>Technology Conference – TBA</b> <i>Lower Peninsula Location TBA</i>

*To Register for the above classes:  
1-877-339-1587 (toll free)  
harwood9@msu.edu*



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**Michigan State University Extension**

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**We're on the Web: [www.msue.msu.edu/crawford](http://www.msue.msu.edu/crawford)**



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Since Fall is on it's way I just wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that the October 24th program is the last program offered through Extension for the 2006 Calendar year. If you don't have your hours done by then, there are not any more classes offered. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SIGN UP !!!**

Julie