

Facilitator Instructions

Review the current material, then chart new ground. It's that simple. Use the worksheet overview and note-taking page to guide your employees through a two-hour workshop.

Well before you lead a session, take a good look at the accompanying material. Each reference document is briefly described in "Summaries of Reference Material". Assigning an individual or group to better digest the material, and prepare brief discussions is appropriate. Not all the referred material is included with this package, such as a video, and the USFS Health and Safety Code Handbook.

During the session, achieve an honest self-appraisal by your workforce about their awareness of the hazards, and practice of the mitigations. On a normal field day an employee will be in the shadow of literally hundreds of trees. Just what are we doing to protect our people? How does that compare to the existing recommendations? And, recognizing that even when people practice proper procedures, we are still having accidents, what is the next step? For the brain storming session, some units have broken into small groups.

After achieving a consensus for this next step, look everyone in the eye, and remind them this is not a paper exercise, but a reasonable and important change in behavior and work procedures.

Assign a scribe, and load the Note Taking Page on a lap top computer. Add your text between elements. E-mail the products of your session to r1_hazard_tree@fs.fed.us (with underscores). Your work, along with input from far and wide, will be compiled, gleaned, and searched for the common threads, as well as real break throughs.

In addition to an immediate heightened awareness and employee buy-in, this initiative may well lead, in the next phase, to improved tools and training for effective and efficient hazard tree assessment and mitigation.

We must find an LCES type of condensed, yet inclusive, method. With this type of concise system, safe practices may be ingrained, and become automatic. Do you notice how glaring the absence of a hardhat is when a working firefighter's picture appears in the newspaper? It was not always that way. That is the standard of awareness we need to achieve.

Finally, assign a committee to create a briefing element to be used for incoming crews. Provide the specifics of species and forest health issues in your area. Use this outline for your own safety briefings, as well as when briefing incoming resources and the public. Again, e-mail your product to r1_hazard_tree@fs.fed.us (with underscores).