

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 1

February 2023

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AgriStress Helpline

AgriSafe and VDACS have created a helpline for farmers and ranchers experiencing stress and mental health issues. Loggers, as fellow rural producers, experience many of the same stressors, like weather, injuries, and equipment costs. Therefore, this helpline is relevant and available to loggers. You can call or text **833-897-2474** to speak directly with a healthcare professional. This helpline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by healthcare professionals with over 300 hours of training both in mental health crisis response and mental health factors impacting agricultural producers. The helpline has access to translation services for 160 languages and a database of agricultural and health resources in Virginia.

A Safety Short by Pat Donnelly, WVU

How many times have you told an employee, or yourself for that matter, to quit jumping off a piece of equipment? I would say that over the years, if you ever had a young person working for you, this has happened. I am not going to go into a list of injuries or statistics, but as one who has dealt with it on several occasions — the results of using three points of contact outweigh any perceived time saved from doing it a “quicker” way! Using three points of contact (both hands one foot, one hand both feet) is a proven way to keep your employees in a better place when getting on and off a piece of equipment. Whether it be the middle of winter or during the heat of summer, this one small rule is tried and true! Talk about it at your next safety meeting and show your people by doing it yourself!

Chainsaw Safety Videos in Spanish

Videos de Seguridad en Español Sobre el Uso de la Motosierra

We have added three videos on Chainsaw Use, Safety, and Maintenance to the SHARP Logger online resource library. These were produced by Cornell University and will play in YouTube. To find these videos, click “explore” in the maroon bar at the top of the SHARP Logger website (www.SharpLogger.vt.edu), then click “resources”. At the bottom of the page, you will find “Resources in Spanish” and links to the three videos. We hope to add more resources in Spanish in the future.

Hemos agregado tres videos sobre el uso, la seguridad y el mantenimiento de la motosierra a la biblioteca de recursos en línea de SHARP Logger. Fueron creados por la Universidad de Cornell y se pueden reproducir en YouTube. Para acceder a estos videos, haga clic en “Explore” (Explorar) en la barra color granate ubicada en la parte superior del sitio web de SHARP Logger (www.SharpLogger.vt.edu), luego haga clic en “Resources” (Recursos). En la parte inferior de la página, encontrará la opción “Recursos en Español” y enlaces a los tres videos. Esperamos agregar más recursos en español en el futuro.

How Many Credits Do I Need?? How Can I Check My Credits??

We are almost finished shifting everyone to an 8-credit, 2-year renewal cycle, based on year of completion. If you became a SHARP logger in 2021 or 2022 or renewed your status on 1/1/2022 or 1/1/2023, then you now must earn 8 CE credits every 2 years. Otherwise, you still must earn 12 CE credits for your 1/1/2024 renewal. Everyone must take the 3-credit, required SHARP Logger Update Class in every renewal cycle. **The number of CE credits you need is printed above your name on the mailing label.** If the label says "Update Needed" then you have not attended the required SHARP Logger Update Class and need the Update before you can renew. **Even if you have more than enough credits, you must take the Update.** The label will also show your renewal date. If it says your credits are due by 1/1/2023 then your SHARP logger status has expired and you must earn the required CE credits by the end of this year or else you will have to retake the Core Program to become a SHARP Logger again.

You can also check your credits, Update status, and renewal date on the website (www.sharplogger.vt.edu), by typing your last name (only) in the "check credits" box at the top of the page. If your record does not come up, either your SHARP status is expired or there is an error. Contact the SHARP Logger Program at 540-231-6494 or SharpLogger@vt.edu.

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

SHARP Logger Update Class (3 CE Credits)

The SHARP Logger Update Class includes a BMP refresher, a logging safety refresher, and other topics that impact logging businesses. The training meets the "SHARP Logger Update Class" Continuing Education requirement. SHARP loggers must attend at least one of these required classes during each renewal period. This class will be offered at the following locations:

Wise County: February 28. Details pending

Galax: early-mid March. Details pending

Covington: March 21, 1-4pm. Mountain Gateway Community College, Clifton Forge

Augusta or Rockingham: May 12. Details pending.

Online: Visit www.SHARPLogger.vt.edu/onlineCE.html. The Update is near the bottom, under all of the 1-credit classes. Available online, on demand.

Additional CE Credit Opportunities

Future classes will be listed at www.sharplogger.vt.edu/training.html as they are planned.

All classes tentative. Check www.SHARPLogger.vt.edu/training.html or contact the SHARP Logger Program at SHARPLogger@vt.edu or 540-231-6494 for the most up-to-date information.

2022 Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

The Core Program consists of classes on Sustainable Forestry, Logging Safety, and Harvest Planning & BMP's. Participants must attend both core sessions to become a SHARP Logger. For more information or to register, please contact the SHARP Logger Program at (540) 231-6494 or sharplogger@vt.edu.

Core 1	Core 2	Location
Thursday, March 16 Friday, March 10	Friday, March 17 Friday, March 24	Patrick-Henry Community College New Kent Forestry Center

Registration required! For more information, contact the SHARP Logger Program at: sharplogger@vt.edu or 540-231-6494.

Check our website at www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu for the most up to date listing of classes.

Online Continuing Education Logger Training

SHARP online trainings currently available include:

- Invasive Insect Pests
- Skidder Safety & Efficiency
- BMPs for Temporary Haul Roads and Skid Trails
- Forestry BMPs: Applied Research Results
- How to Conduct a Deed Search
- Basic Timber Cruising
- Basic Chainsaw Safety & Directional Felling
- Protecting Water Quality with BMP's in Virginia
- Laws Affecting Water Quality and Forestry Operations in VA
- Limbing and Topping Safety
- 2022-23 SHARP Logger Update Webinar

Mid-Atlantic Logger Training Group Webinars:

- The Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Weathering the Storm
- OSHA
- Combining Deer & Forest Management
- Risk Management & Insurance
- Truck Accidents & Casualty Claims
- Legislation and Other Issues Facing Loggers from a National Viewpoint
- Drones for Loggers
- Dealing with Stress in the Logging Industry
- Current Logging Issues in Your State
- The Business Side of Logging
- What Loggers Need to Know About Invasive Plants

To view the trainings, visit www.sharplogger.vt.edu/onlineCE.html and follow the instructions.



**Virginia
Cooperative
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PAID
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PERMIT NO. 28

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Find more information online at www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu

**VA Tech Department of Forest Resources & Environmental
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www.frec.vt.edu**

**VA Tech College of Natural Resources & Environment
www.cnre.vt.edu**

**VA Cooperative Extension
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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Karen Snape at 540-231-6494/TDD* during business hours of 8a.m. and 5p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800)828-1120