



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY: A GUIDE TO PA SFI PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTER TRAINING PROGRAM

PA PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTERS

Pennsylvania's professional timber harvesting workforce serves a vital role in ensuring the sustainability of our state's forest resources. Each day they carry out the critical management activities that sustain our forests and supply our forest products industry. There is no other link in the fiber supply chain that has as much of a direct impact on the management of our forests. As such, timber harvesters in Pennsylvania are critical stewards of our forestlands.

Additionally, Pennsylvania's timber harvesters clock in each morning to one of the country's most hazardous occupations, with a fatality rate more than 30 times higher than the national average. The tools and equipment essential to the job pose hazards wherever they are used and even more so when dangerous environmental conditions common to harvesting job sites are factored in. The nature of the work requires that timber harvesters repeatedly contend with massive weights and unforgiving momentums of falling, rolling, and sliding trees and logs. Safety should always be in the forefront of their mind and the chief goal of every one of their operations.

The fact that more than 7,000 individuals have participated in the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program demonstrates that SFI Qualified Logging Professionals take the safety and sustainability aspects of their industry very seriously. Well educated and prepared timber harvesters are critical to the management of Pennsylvania's forests.

Learn more about the PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program and register for courses on the PA SFI Implementation Committee website: www.sfiopfpa.org

WHO REQUIRES PA SFI TRAINING?

Logger training has been a key component of the SFI Program since its inception. SFI Certified Organizations are required to utilize SFI Qualified Logging Professionals. This includes all commercial timber sales conducted by the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry. Crews failing to meet this standard may be declared ineligible to work on SFI Certified Organization sales. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and certified American Tree Farm System properties have similar harvesting requirements or recommendations. Many private forest landowners and other forest products mills also require PA SFI training for their timber harvesting contractors and suppliers.

DO YOU?



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THE MISSION of the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Implementation Committee's Professional Timber Harvester Training Program is to provide an educational training system that promotes sustainable forest management, operational safety, skill improvement, and profitability to meet the needs of the timber industry in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania forest landowners, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.

HOW TO BECOME A SFI QUALIFIED LOGGING PROFESSIONAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

TRAINING PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In order to be considered an SFI Qualified Logging Professional in Pennsylvania, an individual must complete two core courses and provide proof of current First Aid and CPR certification within a 24-month period. Refer to Core Level Training Requirements on the far right. Once an individual finishes the core training requirements, they will be issued a training record, commonly referred to as a training "card", with an expiration date valid through the end of the following year. All cards expire on December 31st of the listed year. In order to keep their qualification current, an individual must attend four hours of continuing education training each year.

Training participants can access and review their training records, including their training card expiration date, at any time through the PA SFI Implementation Committee's online database: www.sfiofpa.org/search

It is important to note that the PA SFI Training Program does not audit the work of those who participate in the program and therefore does not "certify" individuals who maintain a current status. The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee does not endorse the work of individual loggers or businesses that participate but verifies that they have met the training standards described in the Training Program Policy. Participating timber harvesters should refer to themselves as a "SFI Qualified Logging Professional" and avoid representing themselves as being certified through the program.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

The PA SFI training program requires continuing education (CE) beyond the core training requirements to maintain a current training status and to continue professional development.

- A minimum of 4 hours of CE must be completed for each calendar year after completing core training to keep an individual's training current.
- A person can only accumulate a maximum of three years (12 hours) of CE credit beyond the current calendar year.
- CE courses may not be repeated within a 5-year period.
- If an individual's training card has expired within the last 5 years they can take CE training to bring it up to date (4 hrs/year). Individuals with training cards that expired beyond 5 years from the current calendar year are required to retake the core training in order to reinstate their card.
- An updated training record will be issued to participants upon completion of each CE course.
- Participant training records and their respective training expiration dates are available on our website or by contacting the PA SFI® office.



CORE LEVEL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Core training includes a basic set of courses designed to provide information on all aspects of timber harvesting operations. They may be taken in any order, but must be completed within a 24-month period.

PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTING ESSENTIALS

Includes training and review of safety in chainsaw operation, equipment operation, trucking safety, and OSHA standards. Covers best management practices, PA's erosion and sedimentation laws, harvest planning, and logging aesthetics.

GAME OF LOGGING - LEVEL 1

Level 1 focuses on introducing the participant to open face felling and the development of techniques to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, the five-step felling plan, and understanding hinge wood function and properties.

CERTIFIED FIRST AID AND CPR (MUST HAVE BOTH)

Because timber harvesting is defined as a "hazardous occupation", OSHA (Federal law) requires that everyone who works in the woods maintain current First Aid & CPR training from a provider who can issue a certificate or a card as documentation of hands-on training. You must provide proof of First Aid & CPR certification to receive your initial PA SFI Training Card. Being re-certified in First Aid & CPR is encouraged but does not qualify for continuing education credit. First Aid & CPR training does not need to be completed through the PA SFI program.

Review and register for PA SFI training courses:

www.sfiofpa.org/register

NON-PA SFI CONTINUING EDUCATION

Courses taken outside of the PA SFI program may be eligible to receive CE credit as long as they are determined to be relevant, meet policy requirements, and if some legitimate form of documentation is provided. Individuals submitting courses must send a completed Non-PA SFI Course Credit form (available on our website under "Resources") along with a \$20.00 administrative fee that must be paid at the time credit is requested. If training credit is denied for any reason, the \$20.00 fee will be returned.

A listing of pre-approved non-PA SFI training opportunities can be found here: <https://sfiofpa.org/loggers/virtual-logger-training/>