



**SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE
PENNSYLVANIA**

SFI-01141

Summer 2022 (Issue # 50)

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For questions or comments regarding the
PA SIC newsletter or to unsubscribe,
contact:

Pennsylvania SFI® Implementation Committee

Chuck Coup, Program Manager

211 Barrington Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823

(814) 355-1010 or
(888) 734-9366 (toll free)
Fax: (814) 355-1022

pasfi@sfiopa.org / www.sfiopa.org

Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC)

NEWS

Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance—A Moral, and Legal, Obligation

By Sam Lincoln

*Reprinted from the August 2022 edition of the Northern Logger & Timber Processor
Magazine with permission from the author.*

Vermont's forest economy struggled under the pressure of high workers' compensation insurance costs for many years. Increases in the cost of this legally required insurance led to more people working alone, or without insuring their employees, in the nation's most dangerous occupation, in its most remote locations. Progress has been made in lowering the cost of workers' compensation insurance, but there's still a lot of work to do in changing the culture of logger safety and addressing illegal workers' compensation insurance avoidance.



While searching for solutions in Vermont, we learned that there are important factors affecting rates that are the responsibility of individual logging business owners. When a logger gets injured, it tends to be a severe injury, and costly. A 60% increase in workers' compensation insurance premiums over a five-year period was primarily due to an increase in injuries and subsequent insurance claims, with only a small pool of insured logging contractors paying premiums to cover losses. For example, during one year in Vermont, the workers' compensation insurance claims by loggers were 230% greater than the amount of premium collected by insurance companies. When losses of that magnitude are occurring, the insurance regulators have no choice but to raise the rates to help the insurance carriers cover them.

We learned in 2016 that less than 70 loggers in the state held a workers' compensation insurance policy. That statistic did not begin to pass the straight face test in a state with loggers working in every corner of a heavily forested state and over \$90,000,000 in annual output in the logging sector. Workers' compensation insurance avoidance was discovered on operations ranging from two-person conventional hand falling operations up to fully mechanized crews - with the professionals overseeing those logging operations in varying stages of awareness that it was occurring. As premiums went up, insured loggers were howling for a crackdown, and enforcement on loggers breaking the law, or at least hoping that landowners, foresters, and mills would step in and not allow them to compete for work. Safety training at the time was focused on hand-felling and first aid, leaving the training for many other hazards on logging sites unaddressed. It was clear that training had to be modified and more loggers needed to buy the insurance to level the playing field, be in compliance with the law, and help spread the risk, and some loggers rolled up their sleeves and became part of the solution, but there was resistance.

Unsafe practices and insurance avoidance isn't an issue just in Vermont. Social media posts reveal that logging contractors in some states openly advertise for employees that will be paid in cash. Videos demonstrating extremely unsafe practices and loggers not wearing PPE are easily found on social media. Is this collective attitude the strategy that America's forest economy will use to compete for the best employees to manage our forests, under ever increasing scrutiny from the public? Countless occupations offer the blue-collar workforce attractive pay and benefits, while some loggers refuse to even consider providing basic safety training, or the required insurance coverage to pay for medical expenses and lost wages that sustain an employee and their family in the event of an injury. This is a recipe for failure at the beginning of the supply chain.

(Continued on next page)

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Program

SFI (www.sfiprogram.org), is a solutions-oriented sustainability organization that collaborates on forest-based conservation and community initiatives that demonstrate and enhance our shared quality of life while providing supply chain assurances through standards, data, and authentic stories.

At the heart of the SFI Program are SFI Implementation Committees (SICs). The Pennsylvania SIC is one of 34 spread across North America that responds to local needs and issues through the SFI Program at the local level. This grassroots network is unique to the SFI Program.

The Pennsylvania SIC's purpose is to promote wise forest stewardship, enabling Pennsylvania communities to thrive through a successful forest products industry. We work hard to support business operations by training and developing the logger workforce, educating the public about the value of working forests, promoting SFI forest certification, and assisting with regulatory issues. Our alliance of deeply committed professionals from across the forestry community builds partnerships with many other conservation organizations who depend on the forest industry to advance their own missions. These relationships allow us to serve with great impact.

Learn more at www.sfiopa.org

SFI®-Certified Organizations Supporting the PA SIC

These companies operate in Pennsylvania and are certified to be in conformance with the SFI Standard. They also provide direct involvement and financial support to the Pennsylvania SFI® Implementation Committee (SIC).

PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Domtar Corporation
FD Timber, LLC
Forest Investment Associates
Georgia-Pacific, LLC
GreenWood Resources, Inc.
Jamestown, LP
The Lyme Timber Company, LP
Manulife Investment Management
Pixelle Specialty Solutions
Weaber, Inc.
Weyerhaeuser Co.

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Even when the rates were high in Vermont, workers' compensation insurance premiums cost me less than doing the closeout work on an average timber sale or the cost to move equipment between jobsites. I never heard anyone administering a timber sale tell a landowner that I was excused from installing waterbars, or closing out stream crossings, because "it costs too much." So, when it comes to safety training and workers' compensation insurance coverage, why do so many loggers, and others, automatically say they can't afford it? We're talking about human lives here, valued workers that show up every day to help us make a living.

Despite the perception that this situation is an insurmountable hurdle, the solutions to this problem are not complicated, but they require leadership and potential changes to the way you do business. Examples of very successful logger safety and workers' compensation insurance programs exist in states such as Maine and New York, or the Canadian Province of British Columbia, that have decades of impressive results in reducing injuries and costs, with thousands of employees enrolled. The core elements of these programs can easily be replicated in other states, and they include – ongoing safety training for employees and supervisors that is relevant to the hazards in the workplace; verifiable safe conditions and a culture of safety on the jobsite; and an industry that supports it. Less injuries means less claims, which leads to lower costs.

To initiate a change, leaders in the forest economy supply chain must collectively decide that workers' compensation insurance is a good and necessary benefit for employees, if the desired future condition of employing more top-quality loggers in a safe and rewarding career is to be achieved.

Below are examples of steps each person or entity involved can take.

Logging contractors – • Properly classify and insure employees • Invest in safety training and continuing education for employees • Initiate a supportive culture of safety and best practices on the job, starting with the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for each task • Don't be intimidated by the total annual cost of an insurance policy. Calculate workers' compensation insurance coverage as a cost per MBF or ton produced to be incorporated into your cost of doing business and negotiated into contracts	State and federal forestry officials – • Perform due diligence and administer timber sale contracts on public land that require the purchaser to provide documentation of compliance with applicable workers' compensation laws for all workers on the site, require the use of PPE by loggers with current safety training certification, and consistently enforce these provisions • Provide the same recommendations to private landowners, and the necessary support for implementation and documentation of these practices
Consulting foresters, landowners, purchasers of standing timber, and mills – • Utilize only logging contractors that are properly insured and that invest in safety training for their employees • Perform due diligence and administer timber sale contracts that require the purchaser to provide documentation of compliance with applicable workers' compensation laws for all workers on the site, require the use of PPE by loggers that have current safety training certification, and consistently enforce those provisions • Understand the cost per ton or MBF of workers' compensation insurance before exposing yourself or your clients to liability by assuming the cost is too much and contracting with uninsured loggers • Be leaders in culture change and best practices – wear appropriate PPE on all timber sales and attend safety and rescue trainings - you may be the first on scene when a logger is injured on a timber sale you are administering	
Forest economy advocacy groups – • Be leaders in culture change by demonstrating and communicating best practices, and other relevant information, to your members and all other stakeholders, while supporting those that follow the law or seek to become compliant • Fund, or seek funding for, the development and delivery of modernized job-specific safety training	Insurance and labor regulators – • Support the development of a "safety certified" logger program with modernized safety training and continuing education standards and employ state special class codes to differentiate "safety certified" logging contractors in the ratemaking process • Enforce state laws to combat insurance avoidance and misclassification on logging operations
Third-party forest certification bodies – • Enforce standards that require documentation of compliance with applicable law regarding jobsite and worker safety and workers compensation insurance coverage. Assumptions of compliance for forestry workers is equivalent to turning a blind eye to reality.	

PA SFI® Implementation Committee Partners

SIC Partners and their products or services are not SFI certified, but they help to promote sustainable forestry practices throughout Pennsylvania and pledge a contribution annually to the Pennsylvania SIC based on mill production from PA forest resources.

Blue Ox Timber Resources, Inc.
Cummings Lumber Co., Inc.
Dwight Lewis Lumber Company, Inc.
E.H. Beiler Sawmill, LLC
Gessner Logging & Sawmill, Inc.
Heacock Lumber Company
Hoffman Brothers Lumber, Inc.
JM Wood Products LLC
Kronospan USA - Clarion Boards, LLC
Lapp Lumber Co.
Lee Brothers Lumber
Maple Ridge Forest Products
Mark & Olivia Ott
Mick Brothers Lumber
Ordie Price's Sawmill, Inc.
Patterson Lumber Co., Inc.
Pine Creek Lumber Co.
Renno Brothers Lumber Co.
Salem Hardwood, Inc.
St Marys Lumber Company
Soap Stone Sawmill, LLC
Solts's Sawmill, Inc.
Stoltzfus Forest Products
Superior Lumber, Inc.
Trumco Forest Products
Wheeland Lumber

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SIC Supporters and their products and services are not SFI certified, but they help to promote sustainable forestry practices and pledge meaningful contributions to the Pennsylvania SIC.

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Bingaman & Son Lumber Co., Inc.
C&C Smith Lumber, Co., Inc.
Brownlee Lumber, Inc.
Charles Brown Forestry Consulting
Cowan Lumber
Frank Krammes Timber Harvesting, Inc.
Horizon Wood Products, Inc.
K.V. Sawmill
Lewis & Hockenberry, Inc.
Metzler Forest Products, LLC
Noll's Forestry Services
Postlewait Logging Company
P & S Lumber Company
R.J. Hoffman & Sons, Inc.
RAM Forest Products, Inc.
Remmey - The Pallet Company
Rorabaugh Lumber Company
Sylvandale Forestry
WBL Hardwoods
W.J. Cox Associates

Logging safety trainers and certification programs –

- Ask insurance carriers and regulators for data and trends in logging related injuries
- Modernize training and continuing education to address trends in injuries and unsafe practices for specific occupations including, mechanized logging, non-mechanized logging, and forestry operations supervisors

In Vermont, the foundation has been put in place to keep workers safe and costs down, including – modernized safety training for employees, leadership training for forest operations supervisors, a state special class code with a 15% premium discount for safety certified loggers, and checklists for professionals administering timber sales to be able to verify compliance with the law. The question remains – will industry collectively rise to do their part?

The long-term trajectory of insurance rates in each state is ultimately up to each individual business owner and their employees to prevent injuries on a daily basis. Despite being heavily involved in the development of this program, and committed to safety on my own logging operation, I still have a list of things to do to reduce the risk of a worker getting injured. Like many other aspects of business management, it's a process of continuous improvement. The rates in Vermont are currently the lowest I've ever seen them, and less than half of what they were five years ago, so it's time to break the tradition of automatically declaring "It's too expensive" without looking into the facts. As a safety-certified logger, my cost for this insurance is approximately \$.67 per ton produced (\$2.32 per MBF) and I'm able to afford workers' compensation insurance coverage on myself as the business owner for the first time in my career (with coverage for both mechanized and non-mechanized work), which brought a great sense of relief and security.

Visualize yourself after an incident on your jobsite in an emergency room, or courtroom, and consider preemptive decisions you could make to reduce your risk of being in that situation. Make ethical choices that value your employee's wellbeing, properly train and insure them, lower your costs, and protect your business assets.

Being part of a changing culture can be uncomfortable, but most will agree, it's much easier to bury a tradition than a coworker.

Sam Lincoln operates a safety-certified, mechanized whole-tree logging operation in central Vermont. He formerly served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in the Scott administration and was part of a collaborative effort between public agencies and the private sector to establish the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program.

Training Program Policy Updates

Periodically it becomes necessary for the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) to make updates to the Professional Timber Harvester Training Program Policy – the rules that govern how SFI training participants receive and maintain recognition as SFI Qualified Logging Professionals in Pennsylvania. On September 1st the following changes will be in effect:

- **Section 5.7** – Due to a growing number of online and other outside trainings being submitted for continuing education credit, the PA SIC is no longer allowing multiple outside course submissions under a single \$20 administrative fee. A separate \$20 fee is now required for each individual course submitted. This change also applies to courses submitted under Section 10.1. Please submit trainings using the "Non-PA SFI Course Credit Form" available on our website.
- **Section 7.6** – Requests for the PA SIC to organize training courses at the requester's convenience (e.g., a mill or logging crew requesting training for their employees/subcontractors at their location) will incur a \$1,000 fee in addition to any regular per-person registration or materials fees, regardless of the requester's SIC support status. General training requests submitted to the SIC through the SIC's website (www.sfiopa.org/request-training/) for the regular training blocks do not incur this fee but are not guaranteed to be accommodated.

Per Section 3.4 of the policy, training program participants are ultimately responsible for understanding and following the requirements of the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program Policy. The most current version is always available on our website: <https://sfiopa.org/pages/training-requirements/>



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Pennsylvania SFI® Implementation Committee
748 Gravel Point Rd
Howard, Pennsylvania 16841

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a service of SFI, Inc.

PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

The Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program is geared towards commercial timber harvesters; however, it is open to any individual interested in participating. Courses are offered in the spring (mid-March through mid-May) and the fall (mid-September through mid-November) at locations across Pennsylvania each year.

Learn more:

www.sfiopa.org/requirements

Register for classes:

www.sfiopa.org/register

Find SFI Qualified Logging Professionals or review your training records:

www.sfiopa.org/search



Facebook.com/PennsylvaniaSIC

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee (SIC)

NEWS

Forest Leaves Digital Subscriptions

One of the most widely-distributed forestry publications in Pennsylvania, Forest Leaves reaches over 13,600 print and email subscribers with news and information on forestry-related topics. Forest Leaves is a long-standing effort of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program, and is a collaboration between the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Implementation Committee, the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Extension, the USDA Forest Service, the PA Tree Farm® Committee, and the PA Forestry Association.



Forest Leaves

The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (PA SIC) is a proud partner in publishing the Forest Leaves newsletter. We have been glad to provide this publication in print to many of you as a free service of the PA SIC. However, due to the rising costs of sponsoring hardcopy mailings, we will be shifting to a fully digital distribution for our SFI mailing list. The electronic version of Forest Leaves has the same content, plus bonus material, and comes out about six times a year via email. Anyone that was receiving the printed version that would like to receive Forest Leaves digitally will need to email Mark Ott (mark@sfiopa.org) with their full name and preferred email address. If you prefer to continue receiving Forest Leaves in hardcopy three times a year, please email Chuck Coup (chuck@sfiopa.org). If you would like to unsubscribe, please email privateforests@psu.edu. Thank you for your interest in Forest Leaves!

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Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

Implementation Committee

Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

2022 Fall Training Schedule

➤ To register, please visit: www.sfiopa.org/register, or submit the registration form on the back of this page.

CORE

➤ *Basic First Aid & Adult CPR does NOT qualify for continuing education credit*

➤ *Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials and/or Game of Logging – Level 1 can be taken for CE Credit, IF you have not already completed the training in the last 5 years*

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost +	Register By
10/05/22 Wed	7:30 AM	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Biglerville (Adams County)	\$ 100.00	09/28/2022
10/07/22 Fri	9:00 AM	Basic First Aid and Adult CPR (4 hours)	Johnsonburg (Elk County)	\$ 50.00	09/30/2022
11/02/22 Wed	8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Clarion (Clarion County)	\$ 95.00	10/26/2022
11/03/22 Thurs	7:30 AM	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Sigel (Jefferson County)	\$ 100.00	10/27/2022
11/09/22 Wed	8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Aristes (Columbia County)	\$ 95.00	11/02/2022
11/10/22 Thurs	7:30 AM	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Lewisburg (Union County)	\$ 100.00	11/03/2022
11/16/22 Wed	8:00 AM	Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)	Huntingdon (Huntingdon County)	\$ 95.00	11/09/2022
11/17/22 Thurs	7:30 AM	Game of Logging – Level 1 (8 hours)	Huntingdon (Huntingdon County)	\$ 100.00	11/10/2022

- ✦ Employees insured through Eastern Alliance Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your reg. form.
- ✦ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact NTHA at (570) 265-7753.
- ✦ Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG) has generously subsidized the registration fee for Basic First Aid and Adult CPR training.

CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

➤ One (1) year of CE credit is given for each four (4) hours of training completed. Refer to the Program Policy for complete details on training requirements: www.sfiopa.org/requirements

Course Date	Time	Course Name (Course Descriptions on Registration form)	Location	Cost +	Register By
09/10/22 Sat	8:00 AM	Penn DOT Inspection & Maintenance Course (6 hrs)	Halstead (Susquehanna County)	• COST IS \$25/PERSON. REGISTER WITH NTHA (https://nthardwoods.org/event-training-registration/). ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR 4 HRS OF PA SFI CE CREDITS	
09/16/22 Fri	8:30 AM	Managing Invasive Species (4 hours)	Washington (Washington County)	• COST IS \$30/PERSON. REGISTER WITH PSU EXTENSION (https://extension.psu.edu/managing-invasive-species). ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR PA SFI CE CREDITS	
09/25/22 Sun	8:00 AM	Game of Logging – Level 2 (8 hours)	Honesdale (Wayne County)	• COST IS \$90/PERSON. REGISTER WITH NTHA (https://nthardwoods.org/event-training-registration/). ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR PA SFI CE CREDITS	
09/28/22 Wed	8:00 AM	2022 Eastern Pennsylvania Consulting & Industrial Forester Conference (6 hours)	Camp Hill (Cumberland County)	• COST IS \$25/PERSON. REGISTER WITH PFA (https://pfa.memberclicks.net/2022easternpaconference). ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR 4 HRS OF PA SFI CE CREDITS	
09/28/22 Wed	8:30 AM	Managing Invasive Species (4 hours)	Pennsylvania Furnace (Huntingdon County)	• COST IS \$30/PERSON. REGISTER WITH PSU EXTENSION (https://extension.psu.edu/managing-invasive-species). ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR PA SFI CE CREDITS	
10/01/22 Sat	8:00 AM	Game of Logging – Storm Damage (8 hours)	Towanda (Bradford County)	• COST IS \$90/PERSON. REGISTER WITH NTHA (https://nthardwoods.org/event-training-registration/). ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR PA SFI CE CREDITS	
10/06/22 Thurs	8:00 AM	Erosion Control in Our Forests (4 hours)	Emporium (Cameron County)	• COST IS \$15/PERSON. ADDITIONAL \$20 FOR PA SFI CE CREDITS.	
10/26/22 Wed	7:30 AM	Game of Logging – Level 2 (8 hours)	Breezewood (Fulton County)	\$ 100.00	10/19/2022
10/27/22 Thurs	12:00 PM	Pennsylvania Wildlife (4 hours)	Laporte (Sullivan County)	\$ 60.00	10/20/2022
10/29/22 Sat	8:00 AM	Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)	Washington (Washington County)	\$ 75.00	10/22/2022
10/30/22 Sun	8:00 AM	Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)	St Marys (Elk County)	\$ 75.00	10/23/2022
11/02/22 Wed	12:00 PM	Boundary Lines, Maps & Deeds (4 hours)	Dauphin (Dauphin County)	\$ 75.00	10/26/2022
11/04/22 Fri	12:00 PM	Outdoor Survival Skills for Timber Harvesters (4 hrs)	Honesdale (Wayne County)	\$ 60.00	10/28/2022
11/10/22 Thurs	8:00 AM	GPS for Timber Harvesters (8 hours)	Indiana (Indiana County)	\$ 40.00	11/03/2022
11/11/22 Fri	7:30 AM	Game of Logging – Level 3 (8 hours)	Renovo (Clinton County)	\$ 100.00	11/04/2022
11/15/22 Tues	12:00 PM	Wildlife Young Forest Initiative (4 hours)	Clarion (Clarion County)	\$ 60.00	11/08/2022
11/18/22 Fri	8:00 AM	The Relationship Between Lumber, Tree, and Log Grades (8 hours)	Reedsville (Mifflin County)	\$ 75.00	10/28/2022

- ✦ Employees insured through Eastern Alliance Insurance Group can have the registration fee for Game of Logging classes paid by WJ Cox Insurance. Please submit proof of insurance with your reg. form.
- ✦ Northern Tier Hardwood Association Members can apply for a 50% reimbursement of registration costs after completing courses. Contact NTHA at 570-265-7753.

OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

Additional training opportunities are available through numerous organizations across Pennsylvania and adjoining states. Training courses taken from other sources may qualify for PA SFI core or continuing education credit, provided the subject of the course is relevant to the SFI program, and if some legitimate form of documentation is provided to the PA SIC office for proof of content and attendance. Outside credits are subject to all Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program Policy requirements. To submit Non-PA SFI training credits please fill out a copy of the Non-PA SFI Course Credit Form (available on our website under "Forms" section or by contacting the PA SIC office) and send it to the PA SIC office with all necessary paperwork and a check for \$20 made payable to the "PA SFI Implementation Committee" for administrative costs. Refer to the Training Program Policy for complete details on training requirements.

The PA SIC maintains a listing of all pre-approved Non-PA SFI CE training courses that we have been made aware of. It can be found on our website: <http://sfiopa.blogspot.com>

SELF-PACED/ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LOGGER TRAINING COURSES

- Self-paced/Asynchronous online courses give training participants the flexibility to complete training when it is most convenient for them. The user is in control of what they learn, when they learn it, and where they learn it.
- Several self-directed training courses for loggers have been approved for continuing education (CE) credit in the Pennsylvania SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program.
- These online continuing education classes require a high-speed internet connection, and a computer or smart phone with functioning speakers.

To learn more and participate in approved online logger training courses go to: <https://sfiopa.org/page/online-training/>

2022 Fall Course Registration Form

- **THIS TRAINING SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME WITHOUT ADVANCED NOTIFICATION.** For current training offerings please visit: www.sfiopa.org/register
- Registration fees are **non-refundable and non-transferrable** after the course registration deadline if the course is held and you do not attend.
- Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Your space in a course will not be reserved until the registration fee is paid. Please do not delay in making payment or your space could be given to another participant.
- Courses may be cancelled if a minimum number of students are not registered by the registration deadline. Please register on time.
- For a full description of the Training Program Policies, please visit www.sfiopa.org/requirements or contact the PA SIC office (mark@sfiopa.org / 814-230-2866)

ATTENDEE	COURSE DATE	COURSE NAME	COURSE LOCATION	COST
(Please Print Clearly / One Course Participant Per Form)				
Name: (Full First, Middle Initial, Last)				
Home Mailing Address:				
Home or Cell Phone: () _____ - _____				
Email:				
Occupation (circle one): • Forester • Logger-owner • Logger-employee • Landowner • Office personnel • Truck driver • Other	Make checks payable to: "Pennsylvania SIC" Mail to: PA SFI Implementation Committee 748 Gravel Point Road Howard, PA 16841		Total Amount Enclosed:	
Class location and additional information will be sent to you when we receive your registration and payment				

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORE TRAINING:

Required to be recognized as an SFI Qualified Logging Professional. All 3 core training courses must be completed (in any order) within a 2 year period. Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials and/or Game of Logging Level 1 can be taken for CE Credit, IF you have not already completed the training in the last 5 years.

- **Professional Timber Harvesting Essentials (8 hours)** - Covers general safety considerations, chainsaw safety, logging equipment safety (harvesters, loaders, skidders, etc.), trucking safety and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards that apply to timber harvesting and related activities. Also covers pertinent aspects of Pennsylvania's Clean Streams laws and other water resource protection regulations, Best Management Practices (BMPs), hazardous material control, and logging aesthetics.
- **Game of Logging - Level 1 (8 hours)** - Focuses on introducing the participant to the "open face" felling technique and the development of skills to safely use it. Topics covered include personal protective equipment, chainsaw safety features, chainsaw reactive forces, bore cutting, pre-planning the fell, and understanding hinge wood strength. Participants need safety equipment (hard hat, chaps, eye protection, ear protection, and sturdy boots), water, lunch, and should be prepared to spend the day outside (rain or shine). Participants are not required to provide their own chainsaw.
- **First Aid & CPR (4 hours)** - Because timber harvesting is a hazardous occupation, OSHA regulations require 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 (i.e., no online certifications will be accepted). Individuals do not need to complete this training through the PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program; however, they must provide proof of First Aid & CPR certification to receive their initial training card (we cannot accept the MSHA 5000-23 form as satisfaction of this requirement). Course duration varies by instructor. **DOES NOT COUNT FOR CE CREDIT.**

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE):

One (1) year of CE credit is given for each four (4) hours of CE training completed. CE credits can only extend your validation date a maximum of three (3) years from the current calendar year. CE credit will not be awarded for taking the same class more than once in a five (5) year period.

- **2022 Eastern Pennsylvania Consulting & Industrial Forester Conference (6 hours)** - THIS WORKSHOP QUALIFIES FOR 4 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT, DESPITE THE TOTAL COURSE TIME. Join forestry experts, industry leaders, and your peers to hear presentations related to forest pests and disease, protecting water resources, using native seed mixes to improve wildlife habitat, the ACRE Act, mechanical harvesting opportunities, and grouse habitat restoration tools.
- **Advanced Logger Rescue (8 hours)** - Geared to prepare firefighters, EMS personnel, foresters, and loggers in taking action to reduce severity of injury and increase the chance of survival during a logging accident, this program teaches all participants how to handle an "in woods" rescue from the time a person has not arrived home until they are transported to a Level-1 Trauma Center
- **Boundary Lines, Maps & Deeds (4 hours)** - This course covers the fundamentals of researching deeds, locating and marking boundary lines on the ground using a map and compass and GPS technology, and how to make maps using conventional paper methods, freeware such as Google Earth, and other mapping software. This training involves both classroom and field exercises.
- **Erosion Control in Our Forests (4 hours)** - This online workshop discusses Pennsylvania's environmental regulatory requirements (chapters 93, 102, & 105 of PA Code). It discusses planning before the harvest, stream crossings, best management practices, reading E&S plans, and other considerations during and after the timber harvest. This will be an indoor training.
- **Game of Logging (8 hours, each Level)** - These courses cover chainsaw safety and safe/efficient harvesting techniques. They MUST be taken in order. Level 1 (see description under Core Training section). Level 2 focuses on saw maintenance, chain sharpening techniques, releasing spring poles safely, and directional tree felling. Level 3 focuses on handling difficult trees. Topics covered include limbing, wedging techniques and hinge placement. This training is conducted in the field. Storm Damage provides tips on how to safely handle the dangerous pressures and tensions associated with blown-down and storm damage timber (Prerequisite Levels 1 and 2)
- **GPS for Timber Harvesters (8 hours)** - Participants learn the fundamentals of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and its application to forest management. This course teaches how an inexpensive, recreational GPS unit and a personal computer can be used to determine tract acreage and boundary length, skid trail/haul road layout, distance and grade, mapping special features, and navigating tracts in unfamiliar areas.
- **Hardwood Log Bucking (8 hours)** - This program is designed to integrate field, classroom and computer simulation techniques to teach better log bucking decisions. The goal is to increase the value and quality of hardwood logs by improving the log bucking skills of loggers and yard workers.
- **Managing Invasive Species (4 hours)** - Provides in-depth practical presentations and outdoor demonstrations to help municipalities, landowners, green industry, and natural resource professionals identify and treat invasive plant problems often found in forests, fields, and roadsides.
- **Outdoor Survival Skills for Timber Harvesters (4 hours)** - This course covers various aspects of dealing with outdoor survival situations. A major emphasis is placed on being prepared for unexpected emergencies and preventing hypothermia. Items to have with you, compass and map skills, and shelter/fire building techniques are among the many aspects discussed in detail. Hands on experience is provided to all participants in compass/map and fire building exercises.
- **Penn DOT Inspection & Maintenance Course (6 hours)** - THIS COURSE QUALIFIES FOR 4 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT, DESPITE THE TOTAL COURSE TIME. This one-day course is intended to go over the safety and compliance guidelines for your trucks and equipment. Learn the ins and outs of what PennDOT is looking for when they are examining trucks and weights.
- **Pennsylvania Wildlife (4 hours)** - a comprehensive four-hour course on common wild birds and mammals found in Pennsylvania with a specific emphasis on the habitat needs of white-tailed deer, black bears and wild turkeys. Included will be segments on identifying wildlife foods, tracks, other sign and calls. The legacy of Pennsylvania's premier wildlife artist, the late Ned Smith, will also be covered.
- **Wildlife - Young Forest Initiative (4 hours)** - Developed through a cooperative program with the Wildlife Management Institute, this course discusses the importance of creating early successional forest conditions for the benefit of multiple wildlife species. Participants will learn and be given tools to identify and create habitat systems for the American Woodcock, Golden Winged Warbler, and other young forest dependent wildlife species important to forest landowners.

Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

Implementation Committee

748 Gravel Point Rd, Howard, PA 16841

Phone: (814) 230-2866 / Fax: (814) 355-1022

Email: mark@sfiopa.org / www.sfiopa.org

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