SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND INDIVIDUAL COMPLEXITY LIST

THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ASSIGNMENT MUST BE DETERMINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL SAWYER. This is based on his or her individual skill, knowledge, and understanding of personal capabilities and limitations. Therefore, the final decision to cut any tree is left up to the individual sawyer, giving her or him the choice to say "NO" and walk away from any sawing situation they have determined to be beyond their capabilities.

If a thorough job of assessing the complexity of the individual situation has been completed, the decision to cut or not to cut will be determined by the Go/No-Go process. You must be able to say the following, "I feel comfortable with the sawing situation; I will cut it," or "I don't feel comfortable with the situation; I will walk away from it." **Do not base your decision on the idea that, "I <u>think</u> I can do it."**

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND ATTITUDE

- How do you feel about this sawing assignment?
- Are you exercising sound judgment and awareness?
- Is your attitude convincing you to go against your better judgment (gut feeling)?
- Is your mind on your work?
- Do you have self-confidence?
- Are you overconfident?
- Are you doing this against your will?
- Is peer pressure a factor?
- Are you professional enough to decline the assignment and ask for assistance?
- Do you have all the required PPE and sawing equipment to do the job?
- Are you complacent—unconcerned about potential danger?
- Are you violating any safe operating procedures?
- Do you feel hurried or unusually stressed to get the tree on the ground or bucked?
- Have all options been considered and discussed with others?
- Are you in an unfamiliar environment and timber type?
- Do you watch out for your coworkers and the public?

PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- General health
- Physical conditioning
- On medication or using any recreational substance
- Fatigue (can affect good judgment)
- Time of day
- Work-rest cycles (adequate rest)
- Dehydration

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Light conditions
- Rain, fog, or snow
- Smoke or dust
- Wind direction and speed
- Insect damage
- Heat or cold
- Tree spacing

FELLING

Analyze the felling job by considering:

- Tree species; live or dead
- Size and length
- Soundness and defects
- Twin tops or school-marm
- Widow-makers and hangups
- Heavy branches / weight distribution
- Burning top
- Spike top
- Splits and frost cracks
- Deformities such as those caused by mistletoe
- Damage by lightning or fire
- Heavy snow loading
- Bark soundness or slippage
- Direction of lean
- Degree of lean, slight or heavy
- Head lean or side lean
- Nesting or feeding holes, or both
- Rusty (discolored) knots
- Punky (swollen and sunken) knots
- Frozen wood
- Footing

(Continued on next page.)

FELLING (Cont.)

Observe the base of the tree for:

- "Thud" sounding
- Conks and mushrooms
- Rot and cankers
- Shelf fungi or "bracket"
- Wounds and scars
- Split trunk
- Insect activity
- Feeding holes
- Bark soundness
- Resin flow on bark
- Unstable root system and root protrusions

Examine surrounding terrain for:

- Steepness of ground
- Irregularities in the ground
- Draws and ridges
- Rocks
- Stumps
- Loose logs
- Ground debris that can "fly" back or kick up at the sawyer

Examine immediate work area for:

- Overhead hazards
- People, roads, and/or vehicles
- Power lines
- Driver trees
- Hangups
- Consider potential reaction of other trees
- Other trees that may have to be felled first
- Nearby hazards such as trees, rocks, brush, or low-hanging limbs
- Structures
- Openings to fell trees to
- Snags
- Fire-weakened trees
- Widow-makers

ESCAPE ROUTES AND SAFE ZONES

Walk out and thoroughly check the intended lay or bed of the tree. Look for dead treetops, snags, and widow-makers that may cause kickbacks or result in another tree or limb becoming a hazard. The primary escape route and alternates must be a predetermined path along which the sawyer proceeds once the tree is committed to the fall or to the bucking cut. Safe zones should be no less than 20 feet from the stump; preferably, stand behind another tree (sound and of sufficient size to give protection) and watch for whiplash, broken tree parts, etc. Escape routes and safe zones should be 90 to 135 degrees from the direction of fall. Sawyers must select and prepare the work area, and clear escape routes and alternates before starting the first cut.

BUCKING

- Never buck a tree that is considered unusually dangerous.
- Consider overhead hazards.
- Is guide bar length adequate for the tree to be bucked?
- Establish good footing, and swamp out bucking areas and escape route.
- Select bucking cut carefully.
- Anticipate log's reaction when severed.

Examine the log and immediate area for:

- Percent of slope or incline
- Potential for log to roll, slide, or bind
- Tension
- Compression
- Rocks and foreign objects on the log
- People and property in the cutting zone
- Spring poles
- Fire
- Root wads
- Overhead hazards
- Rocks or other items the tree may dislodge