

## **CAL FIRE**

### **ANGORA FIRE LICENSED TIMBER OPERATOR MEETING**

**JULY 10, 2007**

Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) cutting and removing trees from within the Angora Fire area need to follow these instructions:

- Per Governor's Executive Order S-09-07, all LTOs must consult with the affected agencies before starting operations. This includes:
  - CAL FIRE (530) 541-1989
  - Lahontan Water Quality Control District (only when cutting trees located more than 150 feet from a structure) (530) 542-5400
  - Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (775) 589-5278
  - Lake Valley Fire Department (530) 577-2447

This consultation primarily involves notifying the agency of when and where timber operations shall take place. A phone message is acceptable.

- Where homes have been completely burned, a health risk exists. Vegetative debris consists primarily of large and small trees. If left standing, these trees will pose a threat to life and property as they deteriorate. The optimum time to remove the trees is before home rebuilding takes place. However, given the concerns regarding potential toxics associated with debris from burned homes, tree removal will need to be coordinated with debris removal operations in order to minimize potential health risks to tree removal workers and the public. Therefore, we encourage LTOs not to work on parcels that have not been cleared for potential toxicity by Virginia Huber at the El Dorado County Department of Environmental Management (530) 573-3450 in coordination with Integrated Waste Management/CAL EPA (916) 798-5464.
- All LTOs must coordinate their activities with the debris removal contractor, A.J. Diani Construction. The coordinator for the debris removal contractor is Todd Thalhammer of Integrated Waste Management under the California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL EPA). Todd can be reached at (916) 798-5464.
- The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing private landowners with soil erosion prevention and control assistance. LTOs need to consult with the NRCS and be sure that salvage logging operations do not interfere, impede, or negatively affect the efforts of the NRCS. The NRCS can be contacted at (530) 543-1501
- Only LTOS are allowed to cut and remove trees for commercial purposes as defined in Public Resource Code 4527. General contractors are not legally allowed to perform commercial timber harvesting operations unless they are working under the license of an LTO with that LTOs permission.

- All LTOs must still comply with all rules and regulations of the Forest Practice Act. The Governor's Executive Order only waives the requirement of processing the required harvesting documents (i.e. exemptions), but does not waive the requirements of proper harvesting, such as 100% slash clean-up (chipping or removing) around homes, watercourse protection, erosion control implementation, etc.
- It is anticipated that tree removal efforts have the potential to move more quickly than the debris clean up. Homeowners should be made aware by LTOs that processing of the larger trees into sawlogs will generate limbs and other debris that will need to be treated 100% by the LTO.
- LTOS must perform 100% slash clean up. Lopping and scattering is not allowed. Nearly all landowners have the expectation that small diameter trees not available as logs, as well as brush, will be chipped or removed. LTOs must explain to landowners their capability. We discourage LTOs from harvesting merchantable material (i.e. logs) and leaving the small material for another contractor, which will generate numerous complaints.
- Under the terms of the Governor's proclamation the required permits from the Department are waived under the proviso that appropriate agencies be advised prior to the start of operations. All operational elements of the Forest Practice Rules apply. **Additionally, the proclamation only allows for removal of dead and dying trees affected by the Angora Fire. Removal of green trees or trees which will survive requires obtaining permits from the appropriate agencies within the Tahoe Basin. See additional information below.**
- The Lake Valley Fire Protection District will be providing services of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to assist landowners in making the determination as to whether or not a fire damaged tree will survive (see partial listing below). Landowners and LTOs may also contact an RPF to assist landowners in making the determination as to whether or not a fire damaged tree will survive.
- Active inspections by the Department will be conducted on a frequent basis to accomplish the following:
  - Insure compliance with operational requirements of the Forest Practice Rules with particular emphasis on compliance with 14 CCR 957.2 (c), 957.9(b) and (c) and Board of Forestry and Fire Protection "Technical Rule Addendum No. 3 Brood Material."
  - Provide frequent contact and technical assistance regarding operations to be conducted under the rules and the Governor's proclamation.

- Prevent removal of green trees and fire damaged trees that will survive, take appropriate enforcement action as necessary to enforce the Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules.
- The El Dorado County Sheriff's Department is also available to assist with possible road closures for tree felling activities, as well as assist with any law enforcement problems such as equipment vandalism, etc. They can be reached at (530) 573-3026 or (530) 573-3000. For immediate assistance, please call (530) 621-6600.
- Please report any Forest Practice violations to CAL FIRE at the following numbers listed by priority: (530) 919-4506, (530) 541-1989, (530) 541-6564, or (530) 644-2345. You may also notify the sheriff's department at the numbers above who will forward the complaint to CAL FIRE.
- Please contact Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC) representative Art Chesterfield at (775) 240-3577 regarding any tree removal near utility lines, especially regarding trees marked by SPP in pink and yellow dots.
- Other local ordinances apply to timber harvesting operations such as dust abatement. Please contact the El Dorado County Building Department at (530) 573-3330, the Tahoe Regional Planning Department at (775) 589-5278, and the South Lake Tahoe Public Utilities District (permissible hydrant use for dust abatement) at (530) 544-6474.
- Per local ordinance, local contractors are restricted to operating in residential areas between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Please follow these same hours of work while conducting tree removal operations.

**Please be courteous and professional and follow these directions. Remember, these citizens have suffered a tremendous loss and do not need any more problems or sleepless nights. Treat them and their property with the ultimate respect as you assist them with tree removal and vegetation clean-up on their property. Thank you.**

If you or a landowner wishes to have a Registered Professional Forester inspect any trees and provide general tree advice, please call any of the following from this incomplete listing.

**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS (RPF'S)**

Steve Harcourt	(530)577-1689
Bruce Seybold	(530)587-1063 or 277-6591
John Hoefler	(530) 577-5922
Robert Allen	(530) 644-4838
Steve Cannon	(209) 296-1569
Mark Stewart	(530) 621-4100