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Missouri Forest Products Association Offers Professional Timber Harvester Program



Jefferson City, MO The State of Missouri has determined the importance of trained loggers. Since 2000, the Missouri Conservation Department has required that loggers complete the Professional Timber Harvester (PTH) Program, a five day training session sponsored by the Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA), before they harvest timber on state owned land. Many foresters also recommend using trained loggers on private land as well.

Level III Professional Timber Harvester training covers how to fell leaning trees, advanced cutting, wedging techniques, and ways to safely remove limbs from trunks and get trunks out of the woods with minimum disturbance to the forest. The Level III class will be held April 9 in Piedmont, April 10 in Winona, and April 8 in Salem.

The PTH Program is designed to educate the logger, skidder operator, forester, forest contractor, and landowner in sustaining the forest resources. PTH educates how to harvest timber safely and professionally while protecting the forest ecology and wildlife.

Missouri Forest Products Association's mission is to encourage the wise use and conservation of our nation's natural resources and promote the business of all forest-related industries and encourage closer working relationships among forest products firms, forest owners, producers, and harvesters. "Missouri's forest products industry adds 4.3 billion dollars to Missouri's economy. Logging is a profession that is very valuable part of the industry," said Brian Brookshire, MFPA's Executive Director. "Professional loggers share the responsibility with landowners and foresters to help ensure Missouri's renewable forests can be sustained for this century and beyond."

MFPA produces an automated Trained Logger Directory that is available to the public through their web site. For more information on forest management, the Professional Timber Harvester Program, or to get a printed version of the Trained Logger Directory, visit the MFPA web site at www.moforest.org or call the MFPA office at (573) 634-3252.