

Situational Awareness

The situational awareness checklist can be used for self-assessment during sawing operations. It also can be used for discussions, tailgate safety sessions, or one on one problem solving (to overcome performance or skill deficiencies) in the field.

Checklist of Personal Safety Considerations and Attitude

- How do I feel about this sawing assignment?
- Am I exercising sound judgment and awareness?
- Is my attitude influencing me to go against my better judgment (gut feeling)?
- Is my mind on my work project or activity?
- Do I have self-confidence?
- Am I over confident?
- Is peer pressure a factor?
- Am I confident enough to decline the assignment and ask for assistance?
- Do I have all of the required PPE and sawing equipment to do the job safely? Am I committed to using the PPE and equipment correctly?
- Am I complacent?
- Am I violating any safe operating procedures?
- Do I feel hurried or unusually stressed to get the tree bucked?
- Have all options been considered and discussed with others?
- Am I in an unfamiliar environment and timber type?
- Do I watch out for my coworkers, contractors, and the public?

Evaluating the Complexity of the Assignment

The individual sawyer must determine the complexity of the assignment. The evaluation of the complexity of the assignment must be based on the individual sawyer's skill, knowledge, and an understanding of the sawyer's personal capabilities and limitations. The final decision to cut any tree is left up to the individual sawyer. You have the responsibility to say no and walk away from any sawing situation that is beyond your capabilities.

Once the specific situation has been assessed thoroughly, the decision to cut or not to cut will be determined by the following Go, No-Go process.

Deciding Whether To Cut a Tree

Go! I feel comfortable with the sawing situation—I will cut the tree.

No Go! I don't feel comfortable with the situation—I will walk away from the tree. Never base your decision on what you think you might be able to do. Remember...your safety and the safety of your coworkers depends on the decisions you make.