

## Forestry Safety Slogans

### **"CUTTING DOWN ON ACCIDENTS"**

WHEN I FIRST CAME UP WITH MY FALL LOGO TO SUBMIT TO ROBERT PLEGER, APS'S SAFETY CONSULTANT, IT WAS ONLY A FEW WORDS PUT TOGETHER WITH A VAGUE IMAGE IN MY HEAD AS TO WHAT THE PICTURE WOULD LOOK LIKE TO ACCOMPANY MY LOGO. THE PICTURE I INVISIONED WAS THAT OF A TREEWORER OUT ON LIMB, HIGH IN A TREE, LEANING OVER WITH HIS CHAINSAW, ABOUT TO CUT OFF A LIMB. ACROSS THE LIMB WAS THE WORD "ACCIDENT". THEN, AS ROBERT OFTEN DOES, HE THREW ME A CURVE. HE WROTE, "SUBMIT THIS WITH A FALL THEME TO GO WITH IT." A FALL THEME.....DID HE MEAN AN ACTUAL FALL OR THE SEASON OF AUTUMN? I SOON FIGURED THAT ONE OUT AND I BEGAN THE PROCESS OF FIGURING OUT WHAT I WANTED MY LOGO TO REPRESENT. IDEAS SWIRLED IN MY HEAD! BUT THE IMAGE OF THAT LIMB KEPT COMING BACK TO ME, SO THAT IS WHERE I STARTED.

I DECIDED TO USE THE TREE ITSELF TO REPRESENT MY IDEA. I STARTED WITH THE VERY OUTERMOST PART OF THE TREE, THE LEAVES. NOW SINCE THIS IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A FALL THEME, THE LEAVES MUST BE IN A STATE OF CHANGE, THE GREENS GIVING WAY TO VIVID REDS, YELLOWS AND ORANGES AS THE PRODUCTION OF CHLOROPHYLL BEGINS TO SLOW DOWN IN MANY SPECIES. THE WORD ALONE HOLDS ALOT OF POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS.

### **CHANGE!**

HERE IN ARIZONA WE HAVE SUCH AN EXTREME RANGE OF TEMPERATURE CHANGE. WE GO FROM MONSOON RAINS TO SNOWFALL, FROM THE SCORCHING HEAT IN METRO TO THE EXTREME COLD IN THE NORTH. AS FALL APROACHES, AND WITH THE CHANGING WEATHER, WE HAVE TO BEGIN TO CHANGE THE WAY WE DRESS, WARMER CLOTHING LAYERED OVER OUR WORK SHIRTS IN THE COOL OF THE MORNINGS. SOME MAY EVEN WEAR A CAP UNDER THE HARDHAT. COOLER MORNINGS CAN ALSO MEAN STIFF JOINTS FOR SOME OF US, SO WARMING UP IS EXTRA

IMPORTANT TO AVOID AN ACCIDENT. IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES IN THE MORNING, BUT CAN HAVE SUCH A GREAT IMPACT ON OUR DAY.

### **STRETCH!**

FALL CAN ALSO MEAN A CHANGE IN WORK HOURS. THAT CAN MEAN MORE STRESS FOR THOSE WITH FAMILIES, STRUGGLING WITH DAYCARE, TEAM PRACTICES AND AFTER SCHOOL FUNCTIONS. IT ALSO MEANS SCHOOL CROSSINGS AND BUS STOPS. THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT AMID THE ALREADY HORRENDOUS TRAFFIC. JUST A FEW SECONDS IN YOUR DAY WITH YOUR MIND WANDERING CAN RESULT IN AN ACCIDENT.

### **STAY FOCUSED!**

CHANGING PERSONEL, NOW THAT WE HAVE BEGUN TO HIRE SOME NEW WORKERS, IT COULD MEAN WORKING WITH SOMEONE WHO IS UNFAMILIAR WITH OUR WORK PRACTICES, SOMEONE WHO IS JUST LEARNING THE ROPES, SO TO SPEAK. WE NEED TO TAKE SOME EXTRA TIME TO LOOK OUT FOR THESE NEW EMPLOYEES AS THEY JOIN OUR TEAM.

### **LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!**

NOW AS WE MOVE ON INTO OUR TREE, WE FIND OURSELVES ON THE SMALL BRANCHES AND TWIGS. THESE BRANCHES GO IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, SOME MAY BE FRAGILE, SOME BROKEN, STILL OTHERS ARE STOUT AND STURDY. WE TRY TO CHOOSE THE BEST PATH. THE SAME PATH THAT ELECTRICITY WILL FOLLOW TO REACH GROUND IF THESE BRANCHES COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE LINES. WHILE IT IS EVIDENT THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU ENJOYS CLIMBING IN THE TREES, THE DANGER IS ALWAYS PRESENT, LURKING, WAITING FOR THAT ONE WRONG STEP OR WRONG CUT TO SWING THOSE BRANCHES INTO THE POWER LINES. BEING AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO YOUR SAFETY.

### **CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH!**

THOSE SMALL BRANCHES LEAD YOU BACK TO THE STEM OF THE TREE, SOME ARE AS STRAIGHT AS ARROWS, OTHERS LEAN PRECARIOUSLY. WE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT LIKE THE STEM OF THE TREE, THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF WORKERS. THOSE THAT FOLLOW THE RULES AND THOSE WHO CHOOSE THE PRECARIOUS LIFESTYLE, LIKE THE LEANING TREE. WE HOPE THAT

OUR CO-WORKERS HAVE CHOSEN TO BE THE STRAIGHT STEM, BUT THAT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE CASE. AGAIN, BE AWARE OF NOT ONLY THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT, BUT OF THOSE WORKING IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT. THEY MAY ONLY NEED A FEW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT OR THEY MAY NEED SOME TYPE OF INTERVENTION TO GET THEM ON THE SAFE TRACK.

**BE A TEAM!**

NOW THAT WE ARE ON THE STEM OF THE TREE, WE BEGIN TO TRAVEL DOWN THE TRUNK, SOME ARE SMOOTH, SOME SCALEY, SOME DOWNRIGHT MEAN WITH THORNS. DEW OR ICE IN THE COOL MORNINGS MAY MAKE THE BARK SLPPPERY. WE ALL ENCOUNTER DIFFERENT SITUATIONS EVERY DAY...SOME GO SMOOTH, SOME ARE A BIT SCALEY AND SOME ARE DOWNRIGHT MEAN, STILL OTHERS MAY START OUT A BIT SLIPPERY AND BECOME MANAGEALBE LATER IN THE DAY. HOW DO WE HANDLE THESE SITUATIONS? IT MAY BE A DISGRUNTLED CUSTOMER; IT MAY BE CO-WORKER SAYING THINGS THAT OFFEND YOUR GENDER, RACE OR RELIGION. ALL OF THESE THINGS CAN LEAD TO BEING DISTRACTED OR BEING ANGRY YOURSELF. DON'T LET THIS CAUSE AN ACCIDENT. STEP BACK, TAKE A BREATH, THINK ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. YOU MAY NEED TO CALL YOUR SUPERVISOR OR SOMEONE WITHIN THE COMPANY TO HELP YOU SORT OUT THE SITUATION. HANDLE IT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE IT HAS A CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HAND.

**STAY IN CONTROL!**

This article and slogan(s) was written by Jill Utesch, APS, Planner S/E Division.