SAFETY ALERT

STOP – STOP – STOP

There have been several incidents in Helicopter Logging operations this year where the hill personnel have been involved in serious close calls as a result of not informing the pilots that they were in an unsafe position. Initially the workers were in the clear but due to extenuating circumstances, the original flight paths were altered which placed the worker in a precarious situation. Although the workers had the capability of communicating their hazardous position to the pilots and a window of opportunity to do so, they chose not to.

During questioning later, it was discovered that the ground worker's perceptions were that they didn't want to use their authority to suspend or stop flight operations after giving the initial go-ahead signal, as they felt it would hinder production. All ground workers must realize that they have the authority to suspend the motion of the machine and should feel empowered to do so, should they find themselves placed in imminent danger. The new procedure to halt operations temporarily is to clearly call the phrase: "STOP! STOP! STOP!" This will result in the pilot suspending motion and holding that position until you have reached a clear position and inform him to resume flight operations.

All Heli Ground Workers should be willing, ready and able to quickly enact this procedure during the critical time frame when the pilot is working the turn free of the ground.

Please make sure this ALERT is reviewed, signed-off with all target employees, and posted. [Helicopter Air Crew, Ground Personnel & Visitors e.g. Quality Control and Engineers.]