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Northwestern Logging apologizes for logging accident and increases safety precautions for workers

Seattle, Dec. 3, 2013—Northwestern Logging has evacuated a dangerous logging area after one worker was killed and another injured on Tuesday.

Joe Smith of Portland, Ore. was killed while logging in Northern California. Michael Doe of Seattle was severely injured while working with Smith.

"We are deeply sorry for the loss of Joe Smith and the injuries that Michael Doe has sustained," said James Mitchell, Northwestern's CEO. "They are both great men dedicated to their work and this never should have happened."

The accident occurred after the environmental group Save the Trees spiked trees in the area by placing dangerous objects in the trees. Northwestern was warned of the group's practices but was not aware of the magnitude of dangerous trees in the area.

"Worker safety is always our priority," Mitchell said. "We would never intentionally place workers in a dangerous situation and we are working to ensure this never happens again."

Following the accident, Northwestern immediately evacuated workers from the area. The company also sent in a team to locate all spiked trees and reported the area to the National Logging Society to inform other companies of the danger.

Brad Pitt, communication director for Northwestern Logging, emphasized that the company aims to prevent accidents by increasing global awareness of spiking.

"We want Save the Trees and other environmental groups to know that we care about our workers and disagree with the groups' dangerous practices," Pitt said. "I will personally contact other logging companies to ensure all workers understand the dangers of these cruel practices."

CEO James Mitchell personally visited the families of Joe Smith and Michael Doe Tuesday evening to apologize for the accident. Northwestern Logging will be covering all funeral and medical costs related to the accident.

Beginning in January, Northwestern will be initiating a new worker safety program. The program will be aimed toward accident prevention and will focus on identifying spiked trees. The program will also outline specific company procedures for reporting and evacuating spiked areas.

Northwestern has set up a hotline and online forum for workers and their families to discuss any questions or concerns they have about the company's safety procedures. Northwestern encourages anyone with information about dangerous logging areas to report the area to the company's hotline at 1-800-567-2303.

About Northwestern Logging

Northwestern Logging is a global logging company located in Seattle. Northwestern works to provide raw materials for paper products to markets around the world. The company practices environmentally friendly cutting by replanting 85 percent of the trees it cuts down. Some of Northwestern's largest material output goes to hospitals to create lifesaving products. For more information about Northwestern Logging, go to northwestern.com or call (444)-555-7777.

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