

Leadership

When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves'. – Lao Tzu

What it is

The visible commitment to ensuring that everyone working in forestry operations gets home safe and well every day. Leaders can work at any level in the organisation.

Why do it

Leaders influence the health and safety culture by what they say and do. Through their actions and words, they make it clear that if the job can't be done safely then it shouldn't be done at all. Their words and actions show that risk-taking behaviours, poor standards and system non-compliance are not acceptable.

How to do it

- ▶ Follow safety rules and lead by example
- ▶ Set clear health and safety goals and standards
- ▶ Allocate the resources necessary to achieve these goals and standards
- ▶ Put health and safety first when planning and doing work
- ▶ Follow through on commitments regarding health and safety
- ▶ Challenge unsafe practices regardless of who is involved
- ▶ Recognise and praise safe work practices
- ▶ Respond constructively when told about hazards, near hits and incidents so people are not afraid to tell us about them
- ▶ Follow up on issues as soon as they are raised
- ▶ Stop work to assess risk when conditions change and only start when the risk is reduced or managed.

Track it

Use the following checklist to track whether your leadership practices are on track or need action.

In our crew/team, we...	Seldom	Sometimes	Always
Set clear health and safety goals			
Follow safe practice and rules			
Stop work that cannot be done safely			
Put worker health and safety before targets			
	Urgent action required	Action required	On the right track

Remember...

Leaders influence the health and safety culture by what they say and do.