OHLEC

Objective

Hazards

Leans or binds

Escape routes

Cutting plan

OBJECTIVE states what the cutter intends to do, i.e. purpose of the operation. When felling, this is largely summarized by identifying the intended lay of the tree.

HAZARDS include a standard analysis and summary of *relevant* risks and hazards. The cutter identifies these items and determines what actions, if any, can be taken to mitigate or eliminate the hazards. This includes an evaluation of the tree itself (e.g. widow makers, rot, etc.) and of the environmental or situational complexities created by the cutter's decision to cut the tree (e.g. a fence within tree length, proximity to the public or an open road, etc.)

LEANS OR BINDS are assessed to determine if alterations need to be made to the objective and also inform the cutter's analysis of hazards, escape routes and cut plans. When felling, the lean is assessed from only *two* relevant angles: exactly parallel to the intended lay of the tree and exactly perpendicular. When bucking, the bind is assessed by analyzing the length of the tree to determine top bind, bottom bind, side bind, compression bind or a combination of binds.

ESCAPE ROUTES are identified as primary and secondary and are cleared of obstructions to a reasonable degree. They are generally directed at 45 degree angles away from the stump and should enable the cutter to clear from the stump 15 feet to a safe zone. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the cutter should plan on egressing from the stump no more than 15' so that

he or she can put eyes to the sky and be prepared to react to overhead hazards.

CUTTING PLAN describes the cutter's basic schematic for felling the tree or bucking the log (e.g. humboldt face with a conventional back cut, etc.) This plan will include: width of hinge is <10% of stump diameter AND will determine the depth of the gunning cut (length of hinge across the stump should be >80% of stump diameter OR the conventional 1/3 of dbh).

It is important to note that at any point during the OHLEC process, the cutter's analysis may reveal conditions or hazards which cause him to reevaluate or change the objective. When the objective changes, the process immediately starts over because a different objective may present different hazards, leans/binds, escape routes or cutting plan.