

## Bush fatalities and serious accidents: April 1993

### Fatalities: 4

- A tree feller failed to correctly assess a hazard and was struck by a wind-damaged tree disturbed in felling.
- A crawler operator was thrown out and crushed by the machine as it rolled twice. He was not wearing a seat belt.

- A retired person, cutting firewood for charity, was hit by a tree being winched. The tree broke sideways and struck the feller as he walked into the danger area.

- A watersider was attempting to clear a log sling. A rung on the ship's ladder broke and he fell 4.5 metres onto the gear below.

### Serious Accidents: 15

#### SERIOUS ACCIDENTS APRIL 1993: LOGGING

Activity		Cause	
Felling	2	Slipping/Falling	4
Trimming	6	Jumping	1
Cross-cutting	1	Struck by object	8
Breaking out	3	Thrown out	1
Machine Op	2	Misjudgement	1
Skidwork	1		
	15		15
External Agency		Contact with	
None	1	Object carried	4
Chainsaw	4	Flying object	1
Skidder	2	Impact with object	9
Tree	4	Caused own injury	1
Log	1		
Branch	1		
Hand tool	1		
	15		15
Part of Body		Type of Injury	
Head	3	Laceration	5
Eye	1	Fracture	5
Back	1	Bruising	1
Arm/hand	2	Concussion	1
Pelvis	1	Sprain	1
Leg	5	Dislocation	1
Knee	1	Puncture	1
Foot	1		
	15		15

The above accidents were reported to Health and Safety Inspectors (Bush) during April 1993.

The majority of logging accidents occurred while trimming and breaking out. Loaded trees and branches were cut, and logs or trees rolling or swinging at breakout caused fractures, concussion and dislocation.

Chainsaw lacerations were mainly the result of people slipping or falling and making contact with the saw chain.

There were two skidder accidents. A rolling skidder crushed the leg of an operator who was thrown out (no seat belt) and a skidder rolled backwards, the operator jumped out and was run over.

A trimmer suffered a badly strained back while jumping off a log and a feller received an eye injury when a piece flew off a wedge being driven.

It appears most accidents were due to using methods other than those in the safety codes. Among these were standing too close at breakout, wrong position when cutting loaded wood and no skidder seat belts.

#### Other accidents

- Two silvicultural workers suffered lacerations. A pruner fell from a ladder onto the pruners while a chainsaw operator was cut on the arms when his chainsaw caught in clothing.

- A driver tried to fend off a tree from a sliding 4WD and received severe bruises.

- A chainsaw operator who was under training tripped and was cut on the foot behind the steel toecap of his footwear.