

Bush fatalities and serious accidents: May 1993

Fatalities: 2

Logging

A bushman stood on the lower side of a tree being headed off. The log cut off rolled and crushed him.

Firewood

A skidder operator in a commercial operation was thrown from the machine and crushed when the skidder rolled on a cross slope and an upper wheel climbed on to a stump.

Serious Accidents: 12

Logging

This month, most logging accidents took place while felling and trimming. Tree felling accidents were caused by material falling into the work area. Continual alertness is required to avoid these.

Three chainsaw kickbacks took place while trimming. Attention to correct work techniques would probably have prevented these accidents.

As happened last month, a wedge flew to pieces while being driven and caused a fractured nose. Wedge condition should be checked on a regular basis.

The danger of short logs catching in a moving drag and then swinging or upending resulted in a skid worker receiving a fractured leg.

A large number of these accidents, and the ones below, resulted because of poor work or safety practices.

Other accidents

Falls of various types caused four of the six other accidents reported for the month.

- A silviculture worker received cuts from a pruner when he fell.
- Another fell over a bank and received multiple bruises.
- A council worker fell from a street tree onto the road and received compound head injuries.
- A roading contractor received a sprained knee and ankle when he fell.
- A silviculture worker received a fractured spine when struck by a tree felled by his employer.

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

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS APRIL 1993: LOGGING

Activity		Cause	
Felling	5	Slipping/Falling	1
Trimming	3	Jumping	7
Cross-cutting	1	Misjudgement	1
Breaking out	1	Kickback	3
Skidwork	2		
	12		12

External Agency		Contact with:	
None	1	Object carried	4
Chainsaw	4	Flying object	2
Log	1	Impact with object	1
Branch	4	Caused own injury	2
Hand tool	2	Falling object	2
		Impact with ground	1
	12		12

Part of Body		Type of Injury	
Head	2	Laceration	6
Arm/hand	4	Fracture	4
Leg	1	Sprain	1
Knee	2	Crushed	1
Shoulder	1		
Foot	2		
	12		12