

Eleven die in logging accidents

Eleven people lost their lives in logging accidents during the year ending June 30 1993, and there were three fatalities in commercial firewood operations.

Summary

Activity		Agency		Cause	
Felling	3	Trees	3	Falling branch	1
Trimming	2	Logs	4	Falling tree	3
Crosscutting	1	Machinery	6	Log rolling/upending	4
Stropping up	1	Falling material	1	Thrown from machine	2
Breaking out	1			Brake failure	3
Skid work	1			In danger zone	1
Skid site	1				
Driving/operating	4				

What happened

Log cartage

- A loaded logging truck failed to take a bend at high speed and rolled into standing trees. The driver was fatally injured. The cause of the accident was poorly maintained and adjusted brakes on the semi-trailer.

Logging

- A reversing Bell logger operator did not see a contractor who had moved into the machine's work area to talk to the gang's loader driver. The contractor was crushed between the Bell and the parked loader.
- While trimming trees he had felled previously, a feller was crushed by a log which rolled down from above.
- A breaker out in a hauler operation was killed when a log being pulled snagged on a rock outcrop, swung in an arc and struck him.
- A feller had moved forward to cut the sloven off the tree he had just felled and was struck by a falling branch, broken from a neighbouring tree.
- An operator parked a skidder on a slope and went below to strop up logs. The skidder brakes were insufficient to hold the machine and it rolled back and over the operator.
- A logging contractor working on logs at one end of a log heap suffered fatal injuries when a bent log, disturbed by the loader at the other end of the heap, swung in an arc and struck him.

- A logging contractor trimming trees on a skid was fatally injured when struck by a tree felled by his employee.
- A feller was struck by a tree that was either leaning into or had branches entwined with the tree he felled.
- An operator was thrown out of his bulldozer and crushed as it rolled after the top tracks had climbed onto some punga stumps on a side slope.
- A feller, working on his own, finished heading off a tree from the lower side and was crushed when the log rolled on him.

Commercial firewood

- A skidder operator in a commercial firewood operation was thrown from the machine and crushed when the skidder rolled on a cross slope after an upper wheel had climbed onto a stump.
- A vehicle loaded with firewood stalled on a steep incline. The driver was unable to hold the machine on the brakes and it rolled backwards over a 30 metre band. The driver was killed and two passengers on the back injured.
- A self-employed firewood cutter had cut the tree he was felling right off the stump. It fell backwards and a large branch struck him as he tried to run out of danger.

Bush fatalities and serious accidents— 3 monthly summary April/May/June 1993

Logging

"Logging" covers any work connected with logging operations and includes log cartage, commercial firewood operations and handling of export logs into the ship's hold (unless loaded by the ship's crew).

Fatalities 5

Logging	3
Commercial firewood	1
Export logs handling	1

Serious accidents 52

Activity		Cause	
Felling	11	Falling object	3
Trimming	18	Moving object	19
Crosscutting	4	Hit object	2
Breaking out	4	Contact object carried	2
Hauling	3	Slip/fall	7
Skidwork	6	Jumping	8
Driving/operating	4	Pulling	1
Log transport	2	Kickback	7
		Misjudgement	2
		Thrown out	1
	52		52

External agency		Type of Injury	
Chainsaw	17	Fracture	16
Branch	10	Dislocation	1
Log	5	Sprain/strain	5
Tree	8	Laceration	18
Part of tree	1	Bruise	4
Skidder	2	Crushing	3
Hand tool	3	Puncture	1
Rigging/gear	4	Concussion	1
None	2	Multiple	3
	52		52

Body part			
Head	8	Back	2
Shoulder	3	Knee	4
Elbow	2	Leg	9
Arm	7	Foot	4
Hand	8	Multiple	2
Trunk	3		
			52

Forestry and tree work

"Forestry and tree work" covers all in forest operations outside "logging" and also includes tree work outside the forest situation in aboriculture, firewood gathering, catchment board work, shelterbelt maintenance and work on trees to prevent disruption to services including electricity.

Fatalities 1

Firewood for charity

Serious accidents 23

Activity		Cause	
Roading	1	Moving object	6
Planting	1	Hit object	4
Pruning	11	Contact object carried	1
Thinning	7	Lifting/stretching	1
Driving	1	Slip/fall	8
Travel	1	Repetitive movement	1
Training	1	Kickback	1
		Contact material	1
	23		23

External agency		Type of injury	
Chainsaw	6	Fracture	2
Branch	4	Dislocation	2
Tree	3	Sprain/strain	2
Vegetation	3	Puncture	2
Stick	1	Laceration	9
Hand tool	3	Bruise	3
Vehicle	1	Foreign body	1
Terrain	2	Multiple	2
	23		23

Body part			
Head	7	Knee	1
Shoulder	1	Leg	3
Arm	3	Foot	1
Hand	2	Multiple	2
Back	3		
			23

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