

Bush serious accidents - July 1993

Logging — serious accidents 30

Activity	Cause
Felling	8 Falls
Trimming	7 Falling object
Breaking out	3 Moving object
Skidwork	6 Contact object carried
Driving/operating	3 Slip/slide
Hauling	2 Lift/stretch
Walking	1 Kickback
	Mechanical malfunction
	Contact material
	<u>30</u>

External agency	Type of injury
Chainsaw	7 Fracture
Branch	3 Dislocation
Log	7 Sprain/strain
Tree	6 Laceration
Handtool	1 Bruise
Rigging	3 Crushing
Terrain	2 Multiple
Grit	1 Foreign body
	<u>30</u>

Body part
Head
Wrist
Hand
Trunk
Back
Ankle
Knee
Leg
Foot
Multiple
<u>30</u>

Forestry and tree work—serious accidents 13

Activity	Cause
Planting	1 Hit by object
Pruning	7 Hit object
Thinning	1 Contact object carried
Travel	3 Slip/slide
Felling	1 Fall
	<u>13</u>

External agency	Type of injury
Chainsaw	2 Fracture
Handtool	1 Sprain/strain
Vehicle	3 Laceration
Stick	1 Bruise
Terrain	4 Crushing
Ladder	1 Puncture
Rock	1
	<u>13</u>

Body part
Shoulder
Elbow
Arm
Hand
Wrist
Trunk
Knee
Leg
Ankle
<u>13</u>

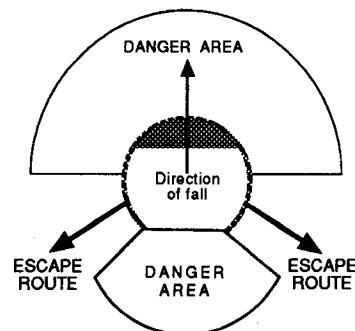
The above accidents were reported to Health and Safety Inspectors (Bush) during July 1993.

In July, most reported accidents in logging took place during the felling phase although there was still a high number in trimming which we looked at in the June accident bulletin.

This month, let's see what methods we can use to try and reduce the number and severity of felling accidents.

Study the escape route and danger area sketch opposite as it is a vital part of felling safety.

Over the page we look at some of the July felling accidents and preventative measures.



Escape routes and danger zones

- Struck by tree which moved during or after felling.
 - a) Tree bouncing sideways after hitting ground.
 - Before commencing felling, look forward in the direction of fall and identify any hazards such as stumps, logs or ground unevenness, that may cause excessive movement or sliding back once the tree is felled.
 - Make sure you have an adequate work area and your escape route is clear.
 - Watch the tree carefully as it falls and as you move along your escape route.
 - b) Tree sliding back downhill.
 - Take special care when preparing your hillside work area and escape route.
 - Identify stumps, trees or ground undulations that may cause the tree to slide or roll when it hits the ground.
 - Watch carefully as the tree falls and move along your escape route.
 - c) Tree sliding back off stump. (May also occur in b) above.)
 - Wherever possible, do not fell trees into standing trees as this may cause a tree to slide back off standing trees or dislodge material that may fall into the work area.
 - Use a machine, if available, to bring a tree safely to the ground rather than fell it into standing trees.
 - If you have to fell into standing trees, always have your work area and escape route properly prepared. Move along this route and watch as the tree falls. Watch for falling material and any backwards slide of the tree.
 - Do not stand directly behind the direction of fall.
- Material falling into work area.
 - Look at the tree as you approach it—you may pick up a hazard that is not visible from your work area.
 - Prepare the work area and escape route.
 - Check for any dead or broken branches or debris that could be dislodged as the tree falls.
- Look for branches interlocking into adjacent trees. These may break off and fall into the work area.
- Watch the tree as it falls, looking for any dislodged material, as you move along your escape route.
- Keep watching for any falling debris even after the tree has hit the ground. Adjacent trees may have been touched, they will still be swaying and dislodge or toss material into the work area.
- Struck by broken top while driving tree.
 - Use a machine if possible to bring any hung up tree safely to the ground.
 - If you have to drive proceed as follows:
 - Prepare work area and escape route.
 - Make sure the driving tree is of sufficient size and weight to make the drive successful.
 - Choose a drive tree that has a good angle. As a guide, it should be no more than 20° off the proposed direction of fall of the tree being driven.
 - Never use a dead tree as a drive tree or drive into a dead tree. At impact, pieces may be thrown into the work area.
 - Look for any material in both trees that may be dislodged upon impact. It will quite often be thrown back into the work area.
 - If you are driving a leaning or lodged tree, watch for the driving tree sliding down that tree and kicking across into the work area.
 - As the driving tree falls, remove and shut off the saw, take the escape route and watch for any dislodged or flying material.
 - If you are driving a tree that is "cut up" (scarfed and back cut) and is held by wedges or just sitting on the back cut, take extreme care as a small gust of wind or a break in the hinge wood can cause the tree to fall into your work area.
 - Always face the cut-up tree while you are making your scarf and backcut in the driving tree.