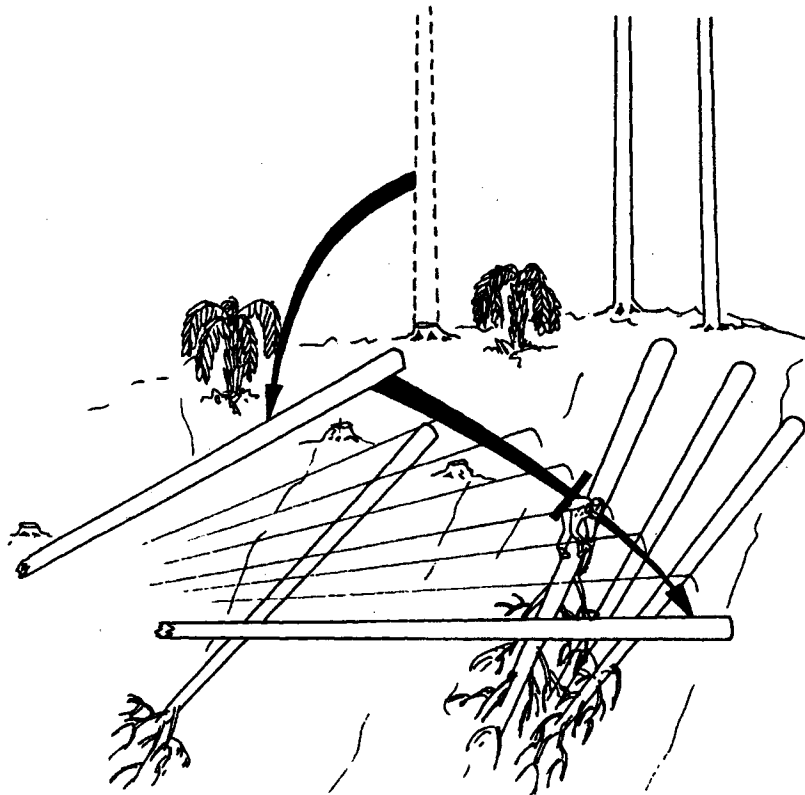


Crosscutter killed when tree rolls over him

A 32-year-old crosscutter was killed when a tree rolled from the slope above into the area where he was working.

What happened

The crosscutter was busy trimming a tree on a steep slope when a tree from further up the slope rolled down and crushed him on its way down the hill. As the crosscutter was working on his own, there were no witnesses to the accident. The inspector, after investigating the accident, reasoned that the tree may have been cut-up and left standing, fell and gained momentum as it rolled over the trimmed logs.



Accident cause

Working downhill from a tree that was either precariously perched and unstable or was cut-up and still standing.

Prevention

Working on steep hillsides brings the added chance of log or tree movement. When branches are removed, slovens cut off, the tree

headed off, or debris from other trees fall onto them, there is always the danger of movement.

If the tree was left cut-up and standing, the golden rule of not moving forward within two tree lengths of the intended direction of fall overrides everything. On steep slopes this distance may need to be increased.

Over the page we look at a bush fatality and a number of serious accidents for the month of October.

Bush fatality and serious accidents— October 1993

Logging

Fatalities 1

A self-employed firewood merchant was trimming a felled tree from on top of the trunk. The tree rolled, he was thrown off and suffered fatal injuries when the tree rolled on him.

Serious accidents 16

Activity	Cause	
Felling	2 Hit by falling object	2
Trimming	2 Hit by moving object	6
Breaking out	4 Contact object carried	1
Hauling	2 Slip/fall	3
Skidwork	2 Collapse of stack	1
Stacking/sorting	1 Kickback	2
Loading	1 Mechanical malfunction	1
Driving/operating		1
Post cutting		1
		<u>16</u>

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	3 Fracture	5
Branch	2 Dislocation	1
Log	4 Sprain/strain	1
Tree	3 Laceration	3
Rigging	2 Bruise	1
Explosion/fire	1 Crushing	1
Terrain	1 Burn	1
	1 Rupture	1
	1 Multiple	2
		<u>16</u>

Body part		
Head	1 Knee	1
Shoulder	3 Leg	3
Arm	1 Foot	4
Trunk	1 Multiple	2
		<u>16</u>

The above accidents were reported to Health and Safety Inspectors (Bush) in the six months ending October 1993.

There appears to be an increasing number of accidents related to hauler operations. Next "Bush Bulletin" we will look at some safety precautions to try and reduce the severity and number.

Forestry and tree work

Serious injuries 8

Activity	Cause	
Pruning	4 Hit by moving object	1
Thinning	1 Hit object	1
Portable mill	1 Contact object carried	3
Releasing	1 Trip/fall	1
Maintenance tools	1 Spray drift	1
	1 Lockout failure	1
		<u>8</u>

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	2 Fracture	1
Handtool	2 Laceration	4
Machinery	1 Bruise	1
Stake	1 Puncture	1
Chemicals	1 Toxic effect	1
Terrain		1
		<u>8</u>

Body part		
Elbow	1 Knee	1
Hand	2 Multiple	1
Trunk	3	
		<u>8</u>

Spraying accident—Releasing operation

A group of eight workers were spot spraying with knapsack sprayers for the releasing of young trees. The chemical being used was "Gardoprim", which is taken into the plants through the roots and upsets the growth process resulting in the spot being cleared of vegetation competing with the young trees.

One worker was behind the others and was attempting to catch up but working in spray drift. He began to feel dizzy and disorientated. He remembers straying off-line and that was his last recollection of the incident. He fell face down after he became unconscious and spray from the knapsack leaked over his head. This caused eye irritation.

This accident highlights the necessity for the workers to be properly trained and equipped on spray operations. All pesticides must be treated with respect and the manufacturer's instructions fully followed. "Gardoprim" is a spray of low toxicity but caused a traumatic accident when treated with disrespect.