

## Bush serious accidents December 1993 - January 1994

### Logging

#### Serious accidents 10

Activity	Cause	
Felling	3 Hit by falling object	4
Trimming	3 Hit by moving object	3
Stropping up	2 Contact object carried	1
Skidwork	1 Slip/slide	1
Transportation	1 Mechanical malfunction	1
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	1 Fracture	5
Branch	3 Sprain/strain	1
Log	1 Laceration	1
Tree	3 Crushing	2
Skidder	1 Burn	1
Vehicle	1	
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

Body part		
Head	1 Trunk	1
Shoulder	1 Leg	2
Elbow	1 Foot	1
Hand	2 Multiple	1
		<u>10</u>

### Forestry and tree work

#### Serious accidents 5

Activity	Cause	
Pruning	4 Hit object	1
Services maintenance	1 Contact object carried	1
	Lifting/stretching	1
	Electrical shock	1
	Slip/slide	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	1 Sprain/strain	1
Tree	1 Laceration	1
Handtool	1 Bruise	1
Ladder	2 Crushing	1
	Multiple	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

Body part		
Arm	1 Trunk	2
Hand	1 Multiple	1
		<u>5</u>

The above accidents were reported to Health and Safety Inspectors (Bush) during December 1993 and January 1994.

This bush bulletin covers the last month of 1993 and the first month of 1994. Although accident numbers are lower than two-monthly averages, many people would have been on holiday and there is the possibility of warmer weather and better working conditions having some influence on accident numbers.

ACC are starting a programme on back injuries. Remember our exercise from a June bulletin aimed at easing backaches and pains caused by continued bending.

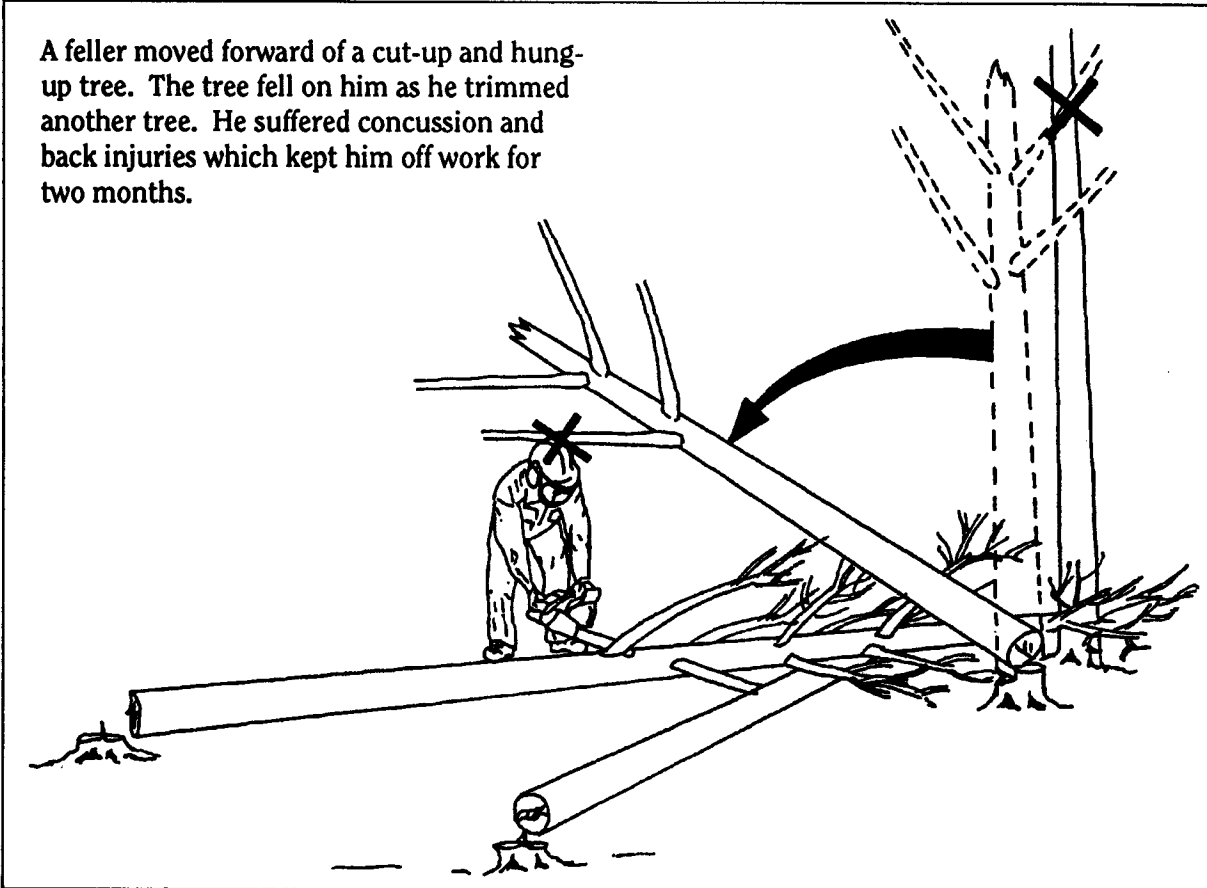
On the reverse side we look at the fate of a worker who worked forward of a cut-up, hung-up tree.



- Stand erect.
- Place hands in small of back.
- Bend back to curve lower spine.
- Hold briefly.
- Relax to erect stance.
- Repeat ten times.
- Do 3-4 times daily.

# Beware of that hung up tree

A feller moved forward of a cut-up and hung-up tree. The tree fell on him as he trimmed another tree. He suffered concussion and back injuries which kept him off work for two months.



## What happened

The feller had attempted to fell a tree that had the top broken out. This tree, with lack of top weight and heavy branching, became hung-up in a standing tree. The feller attempted to roll the tree by cutting the hinge wood. This was not successful. He then moved forward of the direction of fall of the hung-up tree to trim another felled tree. The hung-up tree fell on him, dazing him and causing back injuries.

## Accident cause

Working forward of a cut-up, hung-up tree.

## Prevention

1. Do not work forward within two tree lengths of the direction of fall of any hung-up tree. (Safety Code 19.6.)
2. A hung-up tree should be brought to the ground before work continues. Use machinery on site to assist. (Safety Code 19.5.)

## Conclusion

As well as the injuries and loss of work time, the feller was charged with working forward of a cut, hung-up tree under section 11A of the Bush Workers Act 1945 and was convicted and fined \$750 and had to pay Court costs of \$95.