

Bush serious accidents February 1994

Logging

Serious accidents 15

Activity	Cause	
Felling	5 Hit by moving object	7
Trimming	3 Contact object carried	2
Crosscutting	1 Slip/slide	1
Breaking out	4 Trip/stumble	1
Hauling	1 Collapse of stack	1
Maintenance equipment	1 Pulled	1
	Kickback	1
	Contact material	1
	15	15
External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	6 Fracture	3
Log	5 Laceration	6
Handtool	3 Bruise	2
None	1 Crushing	2
	Foreign body	2
	15	15
Body part		
Head	2 Knee	1
Hand	2 Leg	3
Trunk	3 Foot	4
	15	15

Forestry and tree work

Serious accidents 12

Activity	Cause	
Pruning	10 Hit by falling object	1
Thinning	1 Hit by moving object	2
Operating	1 Contact object carried	4
Supervision	1 Slip/slide	6
	13	13
External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	1 Fracture	1
Branch	2 Sprain/strain	4
Vegetation	2 Laceration	5
Handtool	2 Bruise	2
Splitter	1 Crushing	1
None		1
Stick/stake		2
Ladder		2
	13	13
Body part		
Head	1 Trunk	1
Shoulder	1 Back	4
Arm	1 Knee	1
Hand		4
	13	13

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

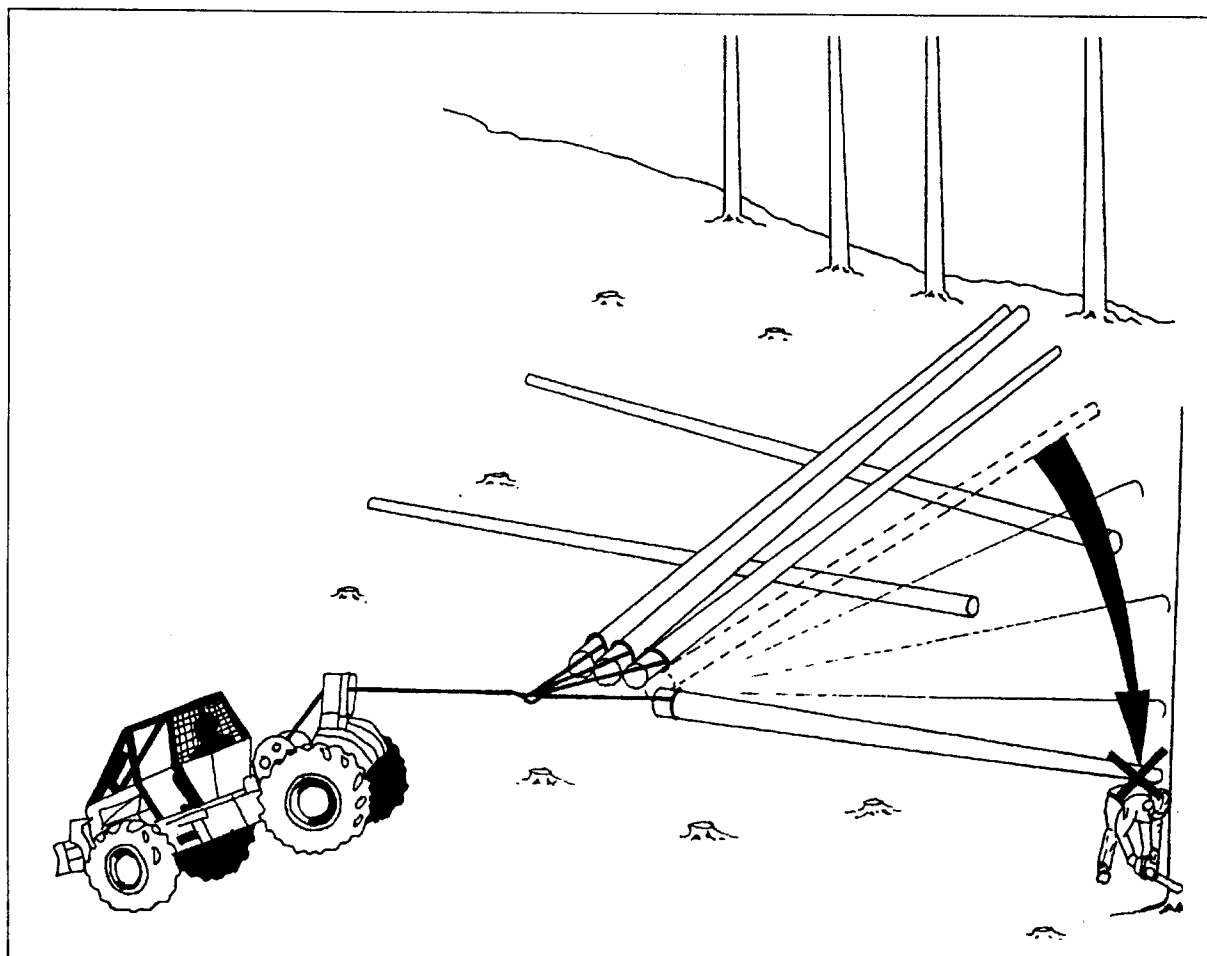
We are a bit late in getting this bulletin out partly due to the forest industries exhibition in Rotorua. We were preparing for the exhibition and then actively taking part. In future bush bulletins we will look at some of the equipment that was exhibited.

There was a strong hint of mechanisation in some logging operations which will require new and differing skills in the future.

The static exhibitions at Rotorua showed the wide range of suppliers of equipment and skills that make the industry tick. We would strongly recommend that you should make an effort to attend any exhibition in the future.

On the reverse side, we look at an accident that occurred at breakout in a ground-skidding operation.

Watch for dangers at breakout



What happened

While a drag of logs was being broken out, one log slid downhill by sliding on other logs. A worker who was felling a tree nearby was struck and seriously injured by the sliding tree.

Accident cause

There were two main reasons for the accident.

1. At the breakout, the person in charge of the breakout should have realised that they were operating within two tree lengths of the person carrying out the felling. There was obviously a lack of organisation and operations should have

been stopped until the situation had been rectified.

2. The feller, of course, was also to blame and should have made sure that the breaking out operation was at least two tree lengths away from the felling face.

Prevention

Quite simply, the sections of the Logging Code relating to felling and breaking out specify the two tree length rule and if this had been followed there would have been no accident.

Section 18.9 refers to the feller's responsibility and section 25.2 covers the breakout situation.

Would you like to contribute?

We are continually looking for new material for the bush bulletins. If you have any situation, accident or information that you think may be of interest to others, contact your inspector (forest operations). We will acknowledge any contributions and can arrange any artwork required.