

BUSH BULLETIN

Bush serious accidents Yearly summary July 1993 - June 1994

The tables below and on the reverse side detail the serious accidents reported to Occupational Safety and Health under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.

Logging

Serious accidents 165

Activity	Cause	External agency	Type of injury
Felling	47 Hit by falling object	28 Chainsaw	36 Fracture
Trimming	34 Hit by moving object	61 Branch	12 Dislocation
Crosscutting	6 Hit object	7 Log	36 Sprain/strain
Breaking out	18 Contact object carried	18 Tree	29 Laceration
Hauling	7 Falls	6 Scrub	1 Bruise
Skidwork	18 Slip/slide	12 Part tree/spa	7 Crushing
Stack/sorting	2 Trip/stumble	5 Rigging	11 Foreign body
Driving/operating	12 Jumping	1 Skidder	5 Burn
Walking/access	4 Lifting/stretching	3 Loader	2 Rupture
Post cutting	1 Pulled/pushed	2 Uprooted stump	1 Amputation
Stropping up	3 Kickback	14 Handtool	4 Multiple
Loading	2 Mechanical malfunction	4 Terrain	9
Log transport	3 Contact with material	2 Grit/dirt	1
Equipment maintenance	1 Collapse of stack	2 Explosion/fire	1
Helicopter logging	2	Vehicle	7
Firewood	2	Portable plant	1
Travel	3	None	2
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Body part

Head	14	Trunk	19
Shoulder	8	Back	4
Elbow	2	Knee	5
Arm	7	Leg	33
Hand	15	Ankle	1
Wrist	4	Foot	27
		Multiple	26
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These tables show that half the accidents reported take place during felling and trimming. The other main phases being breaking out, skidwork and driving/operating.

The main causes of accidents are being hit by logs, trees, branches or various types of rigging resulting in a high number of fractures to the legs and feet and crushing of hands, legs and feet.

Chainsaws feature in over 20% of the accidents with contact (while carrying or operating), kickback, and falls onto saws being the main causes. You all know the type of laceration that a chainsaw will give, and these, of course, are the main injuries received.

Forestry and tree work

Serious accidents 86

Activity	Cause	External agency	Type of injury
Felling	2 Hit by falling object	2 Chainsaw	14 Fracture
Planting	6 Hit by moving object	7 Branch	4 Dislocation
Pruning	44 Hit object	13 Tree	2 Sprain/strain
Thinning	12 Contact object carried	17 Shrub	7 Laceration
Driving/operating	1 Falls	8 Handtool	11 Bruise
Portable milling	2 Slip/slide	22 Vehicle	4 Crushing
Land clearing	2 Trip/stumble	4 Log	2 Puncture
Plotting	2 Loss of balance	3 Ladder	12 Foreign body
Supervision	1 Lifting/stretching	2 Stick/stake	6 Toxic effect
Firewood	1 Mechanical malfunction	3 Terrain	16 Multiple
Releasing	1 Kickback	2 Rock	3
Tool maintenance	2 Spray drift	1 Machinery	3
Arboriculture	4 Lockout failure	1 Chemicals	1
Line work	1 Electric shock	1 None	1
Travel	5		
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Body part

Head	7	Trunk	10
Shoulder	4	Back	11
Elbow	6	Knee	4
Arm	10	Leg	8
Hand	14	Ankle	2
Wrist	3	Multiple	7
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Pruning work accounts for half the accidents. The main causes are slipping or sliding due to terrain hazards being covered by vegetation, contact with either chainsaws or handtools being carried or maintained. Falls from ladders seem to be on the increase and there have been a number of eye injuries while pushing through gorse or scrub.

Lacerations, sprains and bruises are common injuries with fractures being a much lower ratio than in logging. Leg and foot injuries are not as common as in logging, with arm and hand lacerations and back and trunk strains and bruises being more common.

Definitions

"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 crew).

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