

# BUSH BULLETIN

## Sliding tree fatally injures feller

A feller received fatal injuries when struck from behind by a previously-felled tree.

### What happened

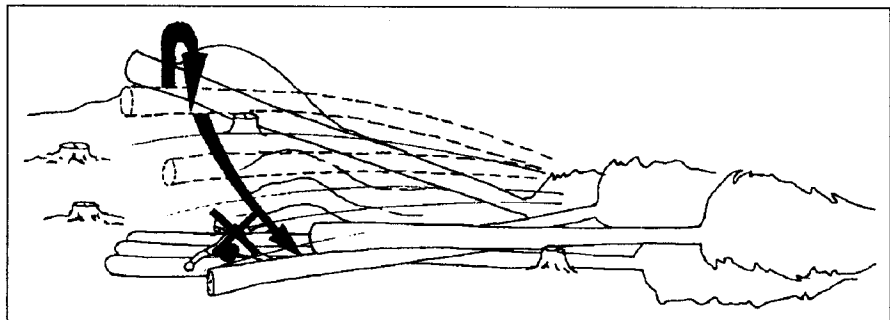
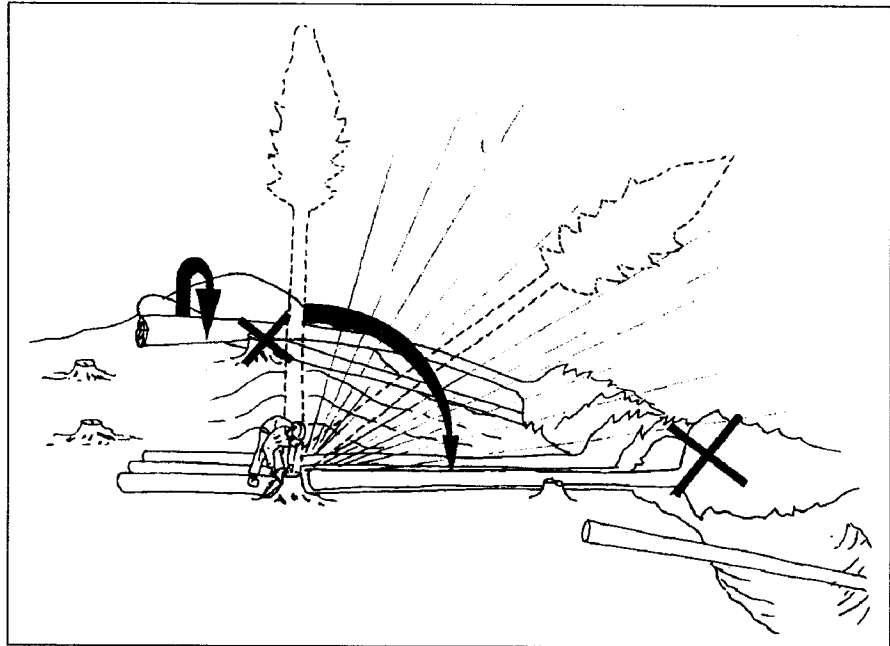
The gang was working on a steep slope bordering a waterway. Trees were being felled across slope and lower down, two trees had been left standing to help to prevent trees and debris entering the waterway.

On returning after the Easter break, it was decided to fell the two standing trees. Both these trees were down slope from the previously felled trees. One was felled and the feller moved to the last tree.

He felled the tree and it hit the head of a previously-felled tree causing the butt of the tree to kick up from behind a stump which had been holding it in position, slide down a tree and strike the feller from behind, causing fatal injuries.

### Accident cause

It is not known if the feller realised the danger of the trees above him as he proceeded to fell the last two trees. The danger, of course, was increased as the head of the last tree landed on top of the heads of the other trees causing one of them to move and slide down hill.



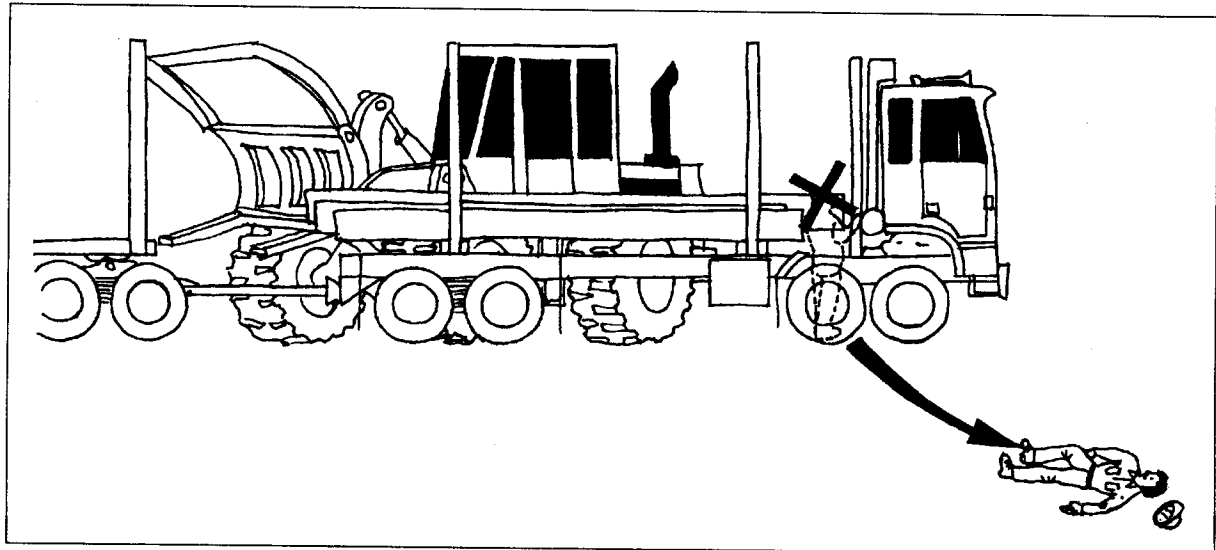
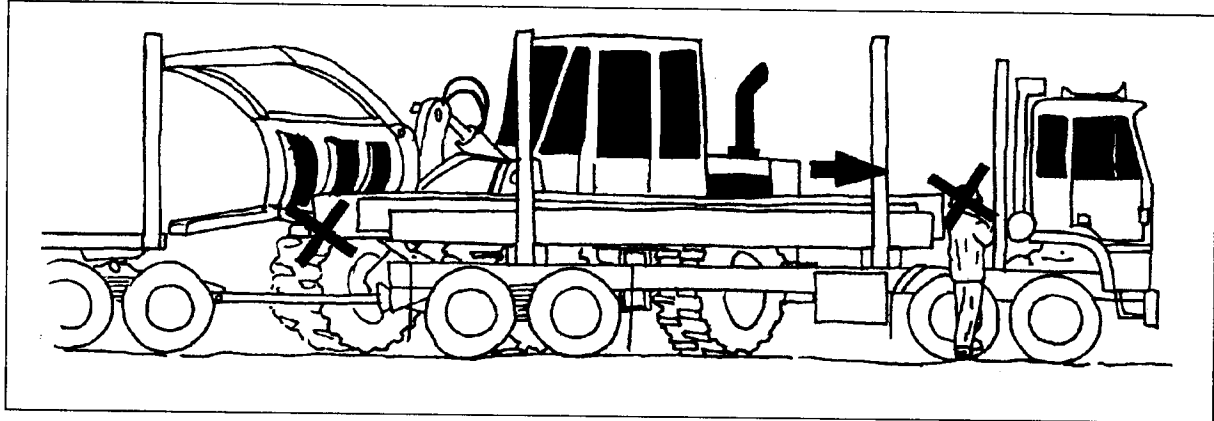
The accident was caused by working below already felled trees on a steep slope.

### Prevention

1. Trees above the work area should have been hauled clear before the last two trees had been felled.
2. It should be assumed that if you are not sure what is holding a tree on a steep slope it may move at any time.

# Log loading accident

A truck driver was lucky to suffer only injuries when his head was trapped between a log and the cab guard.



## What happened

The driver was positioned near the cab end on the opposite side of the truck from the loader as logs were being placed on bolsters. The loader driver noticed that the logs were not flush. He then drove forward, placing the forks against a log and moved it forward.

Before the log was moved forward, the truck driver had leaned across the truck between the logs and the cab guard. His head was caught between the log and the cab guard.

## Accident cause

Lack of appreciation by the truck driver of his responsibilities when on skids at loadout time.

## Prevention

The loader driver is fully occupied at load out, selecting logs, placing logs, turning and driving backwards and forwards. Visibility is sometimes limited.

1. The truck driver must be positioned so he is visible to the loader driver at all times.
2. If the driver wishes to move away or come closer, he must indicate to the loader driver and get acknowledged.
3. The loader driver, in turn, should cease loading if the driver is not visible.