

BUSH BULLETIN

Bush fatalities and serious accidents October - December 1994

Logging

Fatalities 3

A felled rimu tree fatally injured a tractor operator when he drove the machine into the danger area in the path of fall of the tree.

While returning to the felling face along a track, a bulldozer rolled 1½ times when the track edge collapsed. The operator either jumped or was thrown out and was partially pinned by the machine. He was not wearing a seat belt.

A skidder rolled six times down a 60° slope. The operator suffered fatal head injuries as he was thrown around in the protective structure. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Serious accidents 39

Activity	Cause	
Felling	7 Hit by falling object	6
Trimming	13 Hit by moving object	10
Crosscutting	1 Hit object	1
Breaking out	1 Contact object carried	7
Hauling	2 Slip/slide	3
Skid/yard work	7 Trip/stumble	2
Stacking/sorting	1 Lifting /stretching	1
Driving/operating	3 Machine movement	1
Access	2 Repetitive movement	1
Transportation	2 Kickback	6
	Contact material/liquid	1
		<u>39</u>

External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	15 Fracture	12
Branch	5 Sprain/strain	2
Log	4 Lacerations	17
Tree/part tree	4 Bruising	1
Skidder/Bell	1 Crushing	6
Terrain	1 Puncture	1
Ladder		1
Rigging		2
Dead tree/spa/branch		4
Grit		1
None		1
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Body part		
Head	5 Back	2
Arm	3 Leg	7
Hand	6 Foot	12
Trunk	3 Multiple	1
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Forestry and tree work

Serious accidents 19

Activity	Cause	
Pruning	10 Hit by falling object	1
Thinning	4 Hit by moving object	3
Access	2 Hit object	1
Catchment work	1 Contact object carried	4
Nursery	1 Slip/slide	4
Tree work	1 Trip/stumble	1
	Lifting/stretching	1
	Fall	1
	Repetitive movement	3
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External agency	Type of injury	
Chainsaw	3 Dislocation	2
Branch	4 Sprain/strain	5
Shrub	3 Laceration	5
Hand tool	1 Bruise	2
Stick/spike/stump	2 Crushing	1
Ladder/grip	2 Puncture	4
Dead spa/top		1
Terrain		2
Nil		1
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Body part		
Head	4 Trunk	3
Shoulder	1 Back	1
Elbow	1 Knee	1
Arm	2 Leg	3
Hand	2 Multiple	1
		<u>19</u>

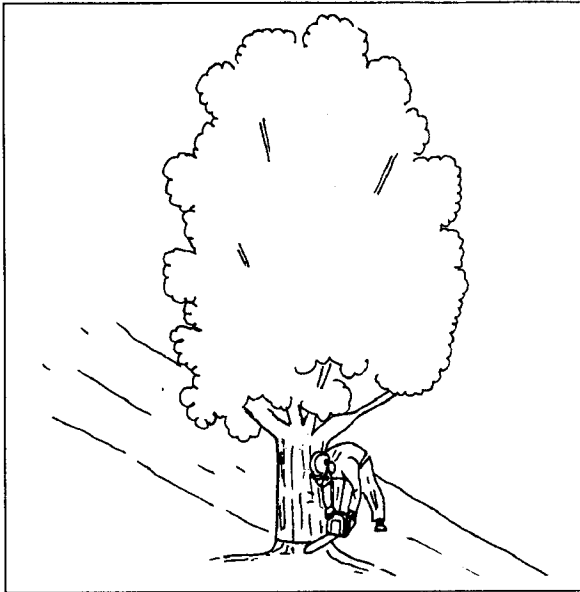
The above fatalities and accidents were reported to Health and Safety Inspectors (Forestry) during October - December 1994

In logging, trimming accidents with kickback of chainsaws, slips or trips causing contact with the chain or loaded branches causing injuries is the main area of concern. In an earlier Bulletin (No. 70) we discussed ways of reducing the seriousness and number of trimming accidents.

In silviculture, pruning continues to be the operation with the most accidents. As with the three months to the end of September, eye punctures from gorse while moving between trees, slips, ladders and grips were the main causes. Two incidents of strains caused by cutting large branches were reported.

Over the page we look at a tragic farm felling accident.

Lack of skill leads to farmer's death



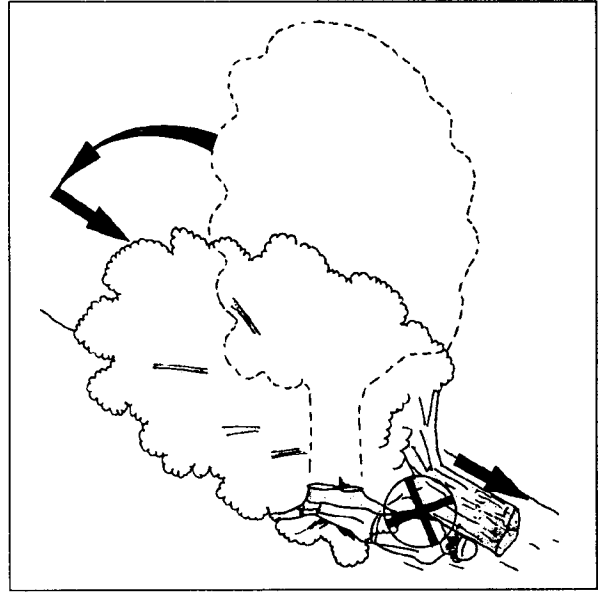
A farmer felling a totara tree on his farm suffered fatal injuries when the tree slid downhill into his work area.

What happened

The farm was covered in scrubby growth with scattered bushy totara trees. The farmer decided to fell some of these totara after a day fencing. He intended to fell the tree downhill and had scarfed and backcut it. There was no hinge wood but a small 15 cm x 10 cm of wood on the downhill side. He proceeded to cut this wood but the tree fell uphill away from the intended direction of fall and then slid downhill pinning the farmer under its branches.

Accident cause

An examination of stumps in the area showed that the deceased had little concept of correct



felling techniques. Scarfs were insufficient and many trees had fallen away from the intended direction of fall. The tree that caused the accident had been almost completely cut through and fell almost 180° away from the intended direction of fall.

Prevention

There are obviously a lot of people who would benefit from chainsaw and tree felling safety days as run by many inspectors and various other organisations. It appears that continual effort should be made to educate and inform as many people as possible.

Protective legwear for chainsaw users

The following manufacturers have the "S" mark to manufacture to the requirements of the New Zealand Standard NZS: 5840:1988 *Specification for protective legwear for chainsaw users.*

1. Chaps:

Rylee Products Ltd Box 16-042 Sandringham AUCKLAND	Wild Weather Clothing Box 69-001 Waitakere City AUCKLAND
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2. Trousers:

Spacetime Industries Ltd Box 39-095 AUCKLAND
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Harvestwear Sales
Box 1724
INVERCARGILL

Spacetime Industries Ltd
Box 36-095
AUCKLAND

Stihl Ltd
Box 97-257
South Auckland Mail Centre